

QUEST



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

July and August 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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Materials for the September issue are due by August 17 .
Don Brandes, Editor: donaldbrandes@gmail.com
Thanks to Charlie West and Rosi Angeli for proofreading.

From Your President

Greetings to all from your new President. I must marvel at the turn of events that have led me to this position, given the fact that I had never set foot in a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship 42 months ago. If that makes you nervous, you are probably paying attention. I hadn't been a member of a church since high school. I doubted that I would ever be in one again. I know my own mind and I knew I could not pretend to believe in something I did not. Church, as I knew it in the past, required acceptance of dogma and that was not in my future. But after a few months of attending the UU I realized that nobody required that I believe in any one thing or another. I joined.



I joined in part because every week the sermon was very different and no one expected me or anyone else to "believe in it". If I liked it, fine. If I didn't, that was OK too. I joined mostly because I found myself surrounded by interesting, caring, curious people. These people were willing to share that they liked this sermon or didn't like that one without demanding that others pay allegiance to their position. Instead, I heard open discussion where pros and cons were welcomed. Of course, the best discussions were during the Coffee Hour and they usually ranged from the sermon to social issues to art to literature to music to family and friends.

That Coffee Hour snagged me. I knew how rare such discussion can be, and to find it so near and so easily accessible was like having a gift appear. I knew I wanted to be a part of the discussion. Today, three years later, I am President. For better or for worse, it's because of Lola Sorensen. Her persistence, coupled with her wonderful soul, finally won me over. Now, three years later, I'm writing my first Quest column.

I hope to encourage even more collegiality among us. I want to learn from each and every one of you. I want to snag some new and interesting people. I want to see and hear and learn from a diverse population. I want each of you to use the UUFSA and our members and resources to make all our lives better. Is it Dining With Dignity, picking up trash on the highway, the Book Club, breakfast groups, a meditation group, playing darts, or one of other opportunities available to us all? Hopefully you have found your way into one of these or other opportunities. These seem, to me, to lie at the heart of our Fellowship.

We live in a world that often seems threatening and on the brink of sliding into the abyss. But the UUFSA offers refuge. The UUFSA offers a place filled with caring, compassionate people who look for ways to make the world they live in a better place. I am blessed to be able to serve this group.

Chuck Chambers
904-679-1853
Johnchuck1@yahoo.com

UUFSA Summer Program Summary

July and August, 2018

Members will speak on our Seven Principles

July 1, First Principle: The inherent worth and dignity of every person

Facilitated By: Ray Adman

July 8, Second Principle: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations

Facilitated By: Ed Mahonen

July 15, Third Principle: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations

Facilitated By: Ruth Weber

July 22, Fourth Principle: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

Facilitated By: Michael Read

July 29, Fifth Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large

Facilitated By: Jerome Fosaaen

August 5, Sixth Principle: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all

Facilitated By: Yosi McIntire

August 12, Seventh Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

Facilitated By: Palmer Short

August 19, "Sharing Our Selves"

Facilitated By: Robin Mahonen

Additional details supplied by each speaker are on the following pages.



Sunday, July 1, 10:30 a.m.

First Principle:

“The inherent worth and dignity of every person”

Ray Adman

Ray will present his beliefs about "Practicing Inherent Worth and Dignity: Keeping it Real." Each person is assumed to start life with equal inherent worth and dignity. What happens after that determines our judgment of their real inherent worth and dignity. Murderers, dictators, sociopaths: Inherent worth and dignity? No. This principle applies only at the start of life, not later. We are not forced to believe that all people have inherent worth and dignity regardless of what they do. An equal start, not an equal finish, is the basis of the UU First Principle.

Sunday, July 8, 10:30 a.m.

Second Principle:

**“Justice, equity and compassion
in human relations”**

Ed Mahonen”

The Second Principle addresses the need for a spirit of cooperation and an acceptance of diversity. Many spiritual sensibilities, while advocating these goals, in fact cultivate division, an 'us' vs 'them' mentality. The extremely fragmented culture we live in would benefit from more 'Second Principle' type thinking.



Sunday, July 15, 10:30 a.m.

Third Principle:

“Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations”

Ruth Weber

Our third principle calls on us to accept one another and encourage spiritual growth. How can we create a community in which people with what appear to be incompatible needs and beliefs can not only accept each other, but invest in each other's growth and development?

What happens when we disagree? Does one of us have to leave? What if one person's approach to spiritual growth is an irritant to someone else? How do we accommodate everyone's needs?

In this service, we hope to share our personal experience with examples of how we have helped others on their spiritual journey and, equally important, how we can accept each other when acceptance is a challenge.



Sunday, July 22, 10:30 a.m.

Fourth Principle:

“A free and responsible search for truth and meaning”

Michael Read

In today's world of social media platforms "truth" and "meaning" have become so obscure as to signify whatever one chooses. Consequently, freedom of thought and speech has become drastically abused. Today, the importance of a RESPONSIBLE search for truth and meaning is of utmost importance.

Sunday, July 29, 10:30 a.m.

Fifth Principle:

“The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large”

Jerome Fosaaen

Democracy, I think we can all agree, is under considerable stress right now. By the time you are reading this blurb in the Quest, who knows what new transgression(s) will have occurred or been revealed? However, some of the more dangerous threats to our democracy include the Supreme Court decision known as Citizens United, and gerrymandering in the age of Big Data, in which congressional districting can be done so precisely that the party who controls it every ten years now picks the constituents for its candidates rather than the other way around.

And then there is Donald Trump, currying favor with Russia's Vladimir Putin and fawning over other autocrats around the world while swinging like a wrecking ball through the alliances with our closest democratic allies. Did Russia and other foreign influences swing the 2016 election? Russian Troll Farms certainly made use of social media to advance Trump's chit during the primaries and to spread lies and divisions during the presidential campaign. Cambridge Analytica, a British firm, but with ties to Russia, apparently gave material support to the Trump campaign in micro-targeting ads in social media.

In office, Donald Trump has been non-stop in breaking norms and attacking any entity that opposes him in his narrow "us vs. them" world view. Is this what democracy is about? After cataloging in the briefest possible way the numerous threats we are watching unfold before us, I will offer some thoughts upon the nature of democracy, and then invite your thoughts in an extended discussion afterward.

Jerome Fosaaen became a Unitarian-Universalist in 1974, after hearing the Rev. Charles White-McGehee deliver one of his eleven "Watergate Sermons" in Jacksonville. He moved to Saint Augustine in 2001 for work and is a past President of the Saint Augustine Fellowship.

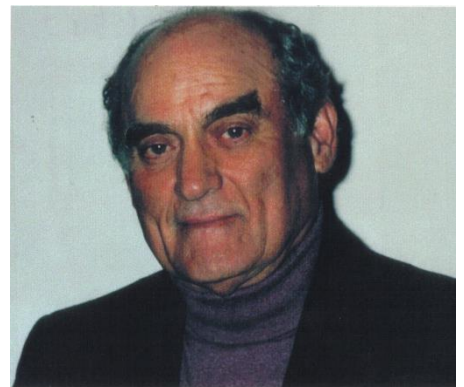


Sunday, August 5, 10:30 a.m.
Sixth Principle:
**“The goal of world community with peace, liberty,
and justice for all”**
Yosi McIntire

Yosi will speak on **“Discernment, Clearness, & Decision-Making: How does Quaker faith & practice work itself out in their lives and actions?”** The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), rely on a process of centering down and waiting for inward guidance. Their decision-making discipline enables them to set aside both individual egos and normal group dynamics, so that they can discern and give voice to diverse perspectives on a concern, and can come to unity on a choice—one which represents, not majority will or even consensus, but rather the shared “sense of the meeting.” That is, a commitment to a collective way forward, whether or not this choice suits each of them individually.

Sunday, August 12, 10:30 a.m.
Seventh Principle:
**“Respect for the interdependent web of all existence
of which we are a part”**
Palmer Short

Our seventh Principle, respect for the interdependent web of all existence, is a glorious statement. Yet we make a profound mistake when we limit it to merely an environmental idea. It is so much more. It is our response to the great dangers of both individualism and oppression. It is our solution to the seeming conflict between the individual and the group.





Sunday, August 19, 10:30 a.m.
"Sharing Our Selves"
Robin Mahonen

As we transition back to being a lay-led community, we explore what it means to share our selves with our spiritual family. As we note in our weekly "Joys and Sorrows", our joys are magnified and our sorrows are diminished by the simple act of sharing these personal milestones with each other. Those familiar with 12 step programs know that much healing comes from the simple act of sharing our experiences with others who might benefit from ours. Much wisdom is gained from those who have walked the same life journey we are taking.

Sunday, August 26, 10:30 a.m.
"A Quaker Service"
Mike Shell

Service leader: Jo (Yosi) McIntyre

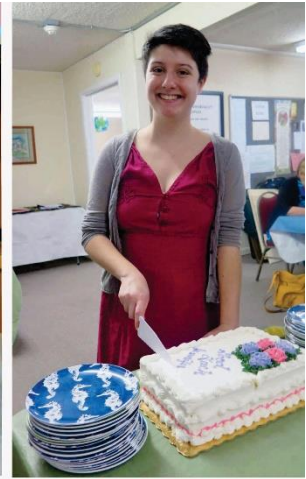
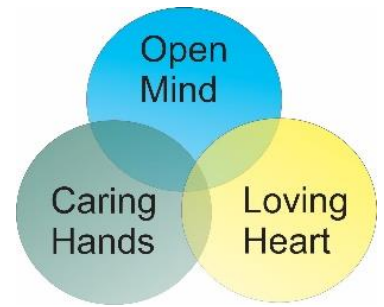
Water Communion
Sunday, September 16th

We, the whole family at UUFSA, wish everyone safe travels and a happy summer! Remember to collect water on your summer journeys for our traditional UU Water Communion, which will be held on Sunday, September 16th.



Programs for Children and Youth

At the end of May we said farewell and thank-you to our long-time teacher Jennifer De La Rosa. Jennifer has accepted a full-time teaching position in Jacksonville and, although we will no longer see Jennifer every Sunday, we look forward to seeing her again at our Fellowship from time to time.



Even as we miss Jennifer, we are very pleased to have a strong teaching team in place for our children. We are delighted that Maggie will be with us for another year and joining Maggie this summer is Liz Boyett. Liz is an experienced teacher who also teaches students with varying exceptionalities at Bartram Trail High School. In addition to her public school teaching responsibilities, Liz volunteers at the St. Johns County Public Library and teaches belly dancing. Please welcome Liz to our Fellowship's teaching team.

Maggie



Liz



Jindy Gelow (jindyms@yahoo.com) and Barbara Battelle (babattelle32137@yahoo.com) will continue to coordinate our Programs for Children and Youth for the coming year. If you have questions about our programs, please contact us or one of our teachers.

Great Decisions

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

There will be no Downstairs Dialogue during July and August.



Third Tuesday Book Group

The Book Club will not meet in July or August.

July Calendar

- 1 – Plant-based Lifestyle and Health 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 1 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 2 – Program Team 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 5 – Indivisible 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 6 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 9 – Board of Trustees meeting 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 13 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 20 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 26 – Women’s March 5:30 – 7:45 p.m.
- 27 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 27 – Movie, ***Syriana*** 6:30 p.m.

August Calendar

- 2 – Indivisible 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 3 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 5 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 6 – Program Team 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 10 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 13 – Board of Trustees meeting 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 17 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 17 – Deadline for September *Quest* contributions
- 24 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 24 – Movie, ***Three Days Of The Condor***, 6:30 p.m.
- 31 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.



July and August UUFSA Treasurer's Reports

The Treasurer's Report and a summary of that report for each month will be posted on the UUFSA News bulletin board downstairs as they become available.

Food Pantry



The St. Johns Food Pantry will continue its regular schedule over the summer. UUFSA volunteers cover the second and fourth Fridays of the month, 1:00 – 4:00 pm. Four volunteers a shift are needed. With volunteers away for vacations, it is sometimes difficult to cover these afternoons.

If you would like to be an occasional volunteer at the Food Pantry during July and/or August, please contact Cherie Dolgin at 904 461-1604. You can receive the necessary training and help out when regular volunteers are away. If you prefer, you can also be trained to become a regular volunteer.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please call:

Cherie Dolgin
UUFSA Food Pantry Coordinator
904 461-1604 (Home)

Dining With Dignity

Our next opportunities to provide a nourishing meal for the homeless will be **Sundays, July 1 and August 5, 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 ***Claudia Atkins***, claudiadeland@aol.com or 386-717-6765 if you are in need of assistance or would like to be involved in the Care Connection Team.

Palmer's Page

Movies

Syriana

July 27, 6:30 p.m.

The movie for July 27 is ***Syriana***, starring George Clooney, Matt Damon, Christopher Plummer and Jeffrey Wright. Big oil means big money. Very big money and that unleashes corruption that stretches from Houston to Washington to the Middle East - and ensnares industrials, princes, spies, politicians, and terrorists in a deadly deceptive web of move and countermove



Three Days Of The Condor

August 24, 6:30 p.m.

The movie for August 24 is ***Three Days Of The Condor***, starring Robert Redford and Faye Dunaway. CIA agent Joe Turner (Redford) who is just a reader, not a cloak and dagger spy, returns from a lunch run to find his entire office massacred. This begins a three-day attempt at trying to stay alive not knowing who to trust.



Friday Darts Nights

July 6 and 20, August 3, 17, 31, 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.



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 July 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. Laura Randall, Legacy Campaign Director, will discuss the Wake Now Our Vision Legacy Challenge. This free webinar will be held on **July 9, 2018, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. EDT.**

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, where you will find helpful information and tools. To learn more about the Wake Now Our Vision Legacy Challenge, visit <http://www.wakenowourvision.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.

Religious Educators Week

July 8 - July 13, 2018

Join other religious educators at The Mountain for a revamped Curriculum Renaissance Module AND/OR to explore the brand new training “Innovation Leadership in Shared Ministry” These two trainings can be taken concurrently or on their own.

The curriculum will explore the various ways that curricula can be used in congregational settings. Additionally, it will explore the various types of curricula available and how to create something completely new. Sometimes common challenges call for uncommon solutions. Come learn how to develop your current and future big idea(s) into project proposals that will clearly communicate its purpose and minister to your congregation’s unique concerns. We will learn strategies for gaining congregational buy-in, project success, and the role of shared ministry in innovation.

Registration and more information available at tinyurl.com/reweek2018

Any questions? Contact southeastlreda@gmail.com.

<https://themountainrlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/RE-Week-@-The-MountainJuly-8th-13th.pdf>



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 828.526.5838 or contact Beverly Cree at UUFSa.