

QUEST



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

September 2019
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	Michael Read



The *Quest* is published monthly September through July.

Materials for the October issue are due by Sept. 20.

Don Brandes, Editor: donaldbrandes@gmail.com

Thanks to Adele DelSavio for proofreading and
David Wright for printing each issue of the *Quest*.



From Your President



We are near the end of August, our Sunday services have resumed, and I hope everyone returns with stories of rest and/or travel to share with each other. Some much needed housekeeping has been performed during the summer break, including painting of the downstairs and modifications to our stage area upstairs.

Chris and I made two short get-aways over the summer, one to Cincinnati and again to Savannah. We are indulging ourselves with our love of art museums on these trips, but on the visit to Savannah we were also able to visit the Savannah UU Church. As it happened, we heard the Rev. David Messner deliver one of his last sermons before he moves on to Charleston, SC. I always enjoy visiting other UU congregations, as it reminds me of the diversity we share. Each congregation reflects the aspirations, the beliefs and the contributions of its members.

In Savannah I noted minor differences in the order of service and the Affirmation of Covenant, but what impressed me most were the members who contributed to the service: the lay service leader, the pianist, a singer and the person who read a “Story for All Ages” with the participation of the children of the congregation.

Each UU congregation shares these common roles in our services, or at least most of them. But it is the individuals who step forward to fill those roles who give each congregation, each Sunday service, its character. Our fellowship is no different in this regard. We each come to the table with our unique talents, experiences and circumstances, and by working together we create a unique community here in Saint Augustine.

Volunteering is not a one way street. If you have a particular need which our fellowship can assist you with, please reach out and let us know. In our covenant we say “Service is our prayer”. Sometimes acknowledging a need and requesting help is a blessing for both the person who asks, and the one who helps.

Jerome Fosaaen
904-417-7344
fosaaenj@gmail.com

Sunday, September 1, 10:30 a.m.
“Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Woman's Bible”
JoAnne Englebert

Service Leader: Nana Royer
Music: Taffy Rook
Story for All Ages



Unitarian Elizabeth Cady Stanton wanted far more than voting rights for women. In her day a woman had “fewer rights than a male inhabitant of an insane asylum.” Stanton found the roots of inequality embedded in passages of the Bible that portrayed woman as “an inferior being, subject to men”, a bias that was an integral part of Judeo-Christian tradition. In 1895, Stanton published *The Woman's Bible*, a collection of Bible texts with sharp, witty comments. Though written with reverence for the moral beauty of the Bible, the book shocked Victorian sensibility and produced a split within the feminist movement itself.

Jo Anne Engelbert is a long standing member of our Fellowship. She is Professor Emerita of Montclair State University, where she taught women's studies courses within her program of Latin American Studies.



Sunday, September 8, 10:30 a.m.
**“Vegan Ethics: Can We Justify taking some to the
Vet and others to Slaughter?
or
Horse Ribs and Dog Bacon: Can We Justify Loving
Some and Forking Others?”**
Dr. Jeffrey Nall

Service Leader: Michael Read
Music: Alex Soltow

Philosophy professor Jeffrey Nall, Ph.D. contends that our habit of eating animals and their byproducts is inconsistent with our own fundamental moral beliefs. In this talk Dr. Nall will draw on his knowledge of ethics and his personal transition from omnivore to vegetarian to vegan to explain why commonsense beliefs and practices that maintain the acceptability of eating farm animals are indefensible. Nall contends that whether the metric is individual health, environmental sustainability, or basic morally consistent respect for animal life, moral integrity requires each of us to make a dramatic change in what or who we eat. What's more, Nall suggests that an honest examination of the moral failings indicated in our relationship with farm animals provides crucial insight into the nature of evil; insight which nourishes empathy for others--including a love of our enemies--and faith in personal and social transformation.



Jeffrey Nall, Ph.D. is an engaged citizen, father, and professor. He teaches philosophy and humanities courses for Indian River State College and the University of Central Florida. Nall also teaches courses in Florida Atlantic University's Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department. For more info on Nall's work go to www.JeffreyNall.com



**Water Communion
October 6**

**Remember to bring water from your summer travels
to the Water Communion next month**

Sunday, September 15, 10:30 a.m.
“Alternatives to Violence”
Nancy O'Byrne

Service Leader: Palmer Short
Music: Taffy Rook
Third Sunday Food Collection
Cash Plate Donation: Home Again St. John's

There is a power that works through us and between us – a transformative power that can change a destructive situation into a cooperative one. We call it Transforming Power, and it is at the heart of the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP). Conflict is inevitable in our human interactions, however, it is how we deal with the conflict that can make the difference.

The mission of AVP is to empower people to lead nonviolent lives through affirmation, respect for all, community building, cooperation and trust.

AVP does not promote any religious doctrine. The program is educational and experiential in nature. It is not psychotherapy. The workshops promote personal growth and creative conflict management, encouraging every person's innate power to positively transform themselves and the world.



In 2004, Nancy retired from real estate and decided to take a more meaningful path in her life by devoting time to advocacy for peace and justice issues. She was the Chairwoman of the Catholic Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission for 13 years, and was awarded the Thomas A. Horkan, Jr. Distinguished Catholic Leader Award. She is currently the Advocacy Chair on the Diocesan Board of Catholic Charities.

Nancy is Chairwoman of Floridians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty. She is a board member of Home Again St. Johns, which sponsors Dining with Dignity and the Drop In Center on S.R. 207. Nancy is Coordinator of the Compassion in Action initiative of Compassionate St. Augustine, which provides educational and advocacy programs for criminal justice and prison reform, and she facilitates Alternatives to Violence Project workshops for staff as well as Help Increase the Peace Program workshops for the youth at the juvenile detention facility in St. Augustine. She has been very involved in bringing Operation New Hope to St. Augustine.

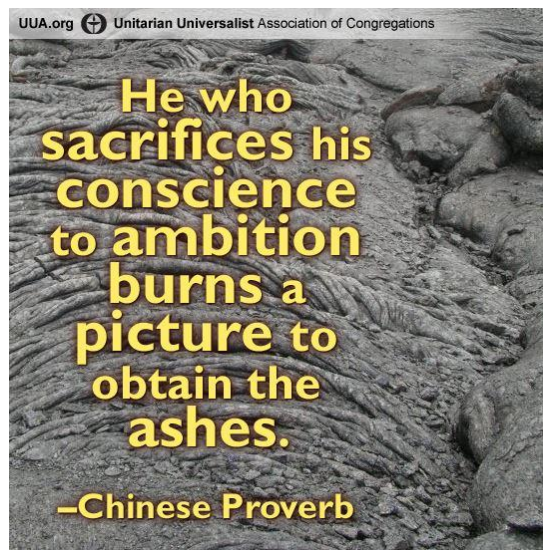
Nancy and her husband David are members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and do home visits to low-income clients. They have recently been asked to be Justice Coordinators for the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine and their Associates.

Sunday, September 22, 10:30 a.m.
**“Unitarian Universalism:
A Faith of Uncertainty and Certitude”**
Philip Baber

Service Leader: Chris McDermott
Music: Alex Soltow

While Unitarian Universalism is a liberal religion that is open to all manner of belief concerning the nature of the divine and ultimate meaning, there are, nevertheless, certain moral truths that are not--or ought not be--open to dispute. Our collective liberation will require us occasionally to move out of our liberal comfort zones and shed our proclivity to remain "open minded" regarding all things.

Phillip Baber is the former pastor of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville. He is also a former co-president of I.C.A.R.E., the Jacksonville-based Interfaith Coalition for Action, Reconciliation, and Empowerment. Phillip's ministry is dedicated to the advancement of our collective liberation, leading him to advocate in support of criminal justice reform, police accountability, racial and economic justice, justice for refugees and immigrants, and LGBTQIA+ rights. Phillip's faith calls him to boldly declare that Black Lives Matter, No Human is Illegal, and Women's Rights are Human Rights.



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

“Mitakuye Oyasin”

Ayolane Halusky

Service Leader: Nana Royer

Music: Taffy Rook

Ayolane will elaborate on the topic of Mitakuye Oyasin, a Lakota word meaning "we are all related" or "all my relations". He has spoken at the Fellowship on at least two occasions, and we can rely on him to always delve into Native American spirituality.

Ayolane is the St. Johns County Park Naturalist. Working out of his office in the Trout Creek Community Center, in west St Johns County, he oversees a diverse array of programs designed to not only make more people aware of the natural beauty of St. Johns County, but also to help people “create an emotional connection to the natural area and environment.”

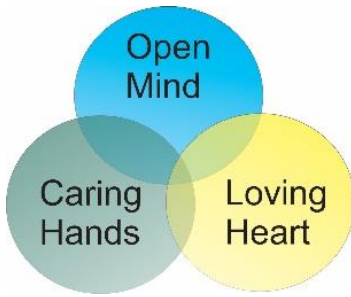


As a Master Naturalist, Halusky also is the lead instructor for the Florida Master Naturalist Program conducted at the Trout Creek Park. The program is for adults who want to learn more about Florida’s environment including wetlands, ecosystems, key plants, wildlife and the role of humans in shaping the environment.

News from the Beautification Team

During summer break, your Beautification Team had the walls and woodwork of the Social Hall repainted and the carpeting cleaned. The Children's classroom and Meditation Room switched roles, and most storage areas were cleaned up. Just as the jobs were about finished, there were a few problems downstairs: the AC system and one row of ceiling lights failed and the dehumidifier overflowed and stained the carpet. So we are not finished yet. Pardon our dust while we fix it all up.

About the bulletin boards: any team that wants a bulletin board, please contact the members of the Beautification Team, Rosi Angeli and Annette Jones. We have a large selection of bulletin boards available and will work with you to have one installed.

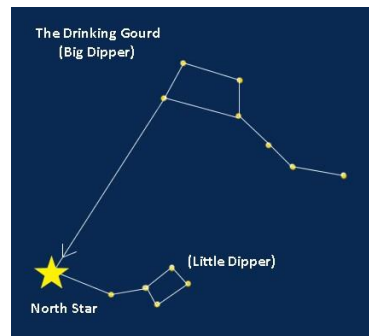


Programs for Children and Youth

As our new congregational year begins, it is good to remind ourselves of the goals of our Programs for Children and Youth. Each Sunday we seek to provide engaging activities through which our children can develop a positive sense of self, open their minds and practice the values expressed in our UU Principles. In the language of our children these principles are:

1. All people are important.
2. We should be kind and fair.
3. We should accept other people and help them to grow.
4. We should figure out for ourselves what is true and good.
5. We should do what our consciences tell us is right.
6. People should have a voice and a vote about things that concern them.
7. We should work for peace and freedom everywhere and try to make the world one family.
8. We should take care of the earth which gives us life.

Just as in our services for adults, the lessons we prepare for our children come from many sources: our own sense of wonder, wisdom from all the world's great religions including earth-center religions, the lives of people who have worked to make the world a better place and knowledge gained through reason and science. The central theme for our lessons this year comes from the Tapestry of Faith curriculum "*Love Will Guide Us*," a curriculum which focuses on the idea that as we move through life, love can serve as our "North Star".



In our sanctuary, children will participate in *Stories for All Ages*, as chalice lighters and they will help collect food from congregants for the food pantry.

Jindy Gelow (jindyms@yahoo.com) and Barbara Battelle (babattelle32137@yahoo.com) will coordinate our Programs for Children and Youth for the coming year, and will serve as lead teachers. We will also invite members of our Fellowship to share their talents and interests with our children by volunteering to provide a lesson.

If you have questions about our program, please see Jindy or Barbara.

We look forward to an exciting and fulfilling year of fun and learning!

Skeptics and Believers: Religious Debates in the Western Intellectual Tradition 2019-2020

What are we doing when we profess belief in God? When we pray? When we join others in rituals of worship? Modernity is a historical period characterized by advances in science and new models of reason. New questions about God, faith, and religion began to be asked. How do we know that God exists? Is religion a force for good in human life, or is something that belongs to a past age, a symptom of the childhood of humanity?

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Discussion Leader</u>
October 8.....	Religion and Modernity	Surindar Paracer
October 22.....	From Catholicism to Protestantism	Jocelyn Breakwell
November 5.....	Scientific Revolution and Descartes.....	Richard Lahey
November 19.....	Enlightenment and Religion	Surindar Paracer
December 10.....	Judaism and Modernity	Lois Post
January 7.....	Kierkegaard's faith	Chris McDermott
January 21.....	Kierkegaard's Paradox.....	Chris McDermott
February 4.....	Nietzsche and Genealogy of Morals	Nana Royer
February 18.....	Nietzsche—Religion and the Ascetic Ideal.....	Nana Royer
March 10.....	Freud—Religion as Neurosis	Louis Post
April 7.....	Barth and the end of Liberal theology	Chris McDermott
April 21.....	Modern Jewish Philosophy	Lois Post
May 5.....	Liberation Theology.....	Yosi McIntire
May 19.....	Secular and Postmodern Theologies	Chuck Chambers
June 9.....	New Atheisms	Richard Lahey
June 23.....	Pluralisms – Religious and Secular.....	Jane Mahoney

Tuesdays: 5:00- 6:30 p.m., downstairs meeting hall, UUFSA St Augustine
Series Coordinator: Surindar Paracer, Co-chair, UU Adult learning

Contact Surindar Paracer at (904-217-3802 sparacer@worchester.edu)

Book Group, September 18, at 1:00 p.m. (downstairs)



The book for discussion at this first meeting is *The Fire Next Time*, by James Baldwin. We'll also be finalizing a list for this season.

Bring your ideas!

Bobbie Brenner
Group Coordinator

Great Decisions Monday, September 17, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. “Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics”

Cyber conflict is a new and continually developing threat, which can include foreign interference in elections, industrial sabotage and attacks on infrastructure. Cyber has become a significant weapon in US foreign affairs. Russia has been accused of interfering in the 2016 presidential elections in the United States and China is highly committed to using cyberspace as a tool of national policy.

Dealing with cyber conflict will require new ways of looking at warfare for all countries. Is the United States prepared to respond to such threats? The discussion will be led by Dick Lahey.

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



From the Food Pantry



Our volunteers continued to staff the Food Pantry, on our assigned days, throughout the summer. Need for food can even increase during the time when children are home from school. Our volunteers are committed and do an excellent job. Many thanks to all of them and especially Chris Fosaaen, who is now representing us at monthly Board meetings.

If you think that you might like to try volunteering at the Pantry, either by using the computer to check people in or bagging family food orders, please give me a call for more information. We would love you to join our team.

Cherie Dolgin
UUFSA Food Pantry Coordinator
cdolgin@bellsouth.net
904-461-1604

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, Chair 386-717-6765
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

Dining With Dignity

Our next opportunity to provide a nourishing meal for the homeless will be **Sunday, September 1, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.** For more information, contact a member of the Dining with Dignity Team:

Mary Kellough, 904-217-9837



Palmer's Pic September 27, 6:30 p.m.

The Family Man

See the review at: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0218967>



Palmer

Friday Darts Nights September 6 and 20, 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.

September Calendar



- 1 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 2 – Program Team 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 6 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 9 – Board of Trustees meeting 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 12 – Indivisible St. Augustine 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 13 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 15 – Third Sunday food donation during service
- 16 – Great Decisions 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 17 – Book Group 1:00 – 2:45
- 20 – Deadline for July – August Quest contributions
- 20 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 27 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 27 – Movie, *A Family Man* 6:30 p.m.

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!
Aging to Saging..... October 6-10

For more information: www.TheMountainRLC.org or 828-526-5838, or contact Beverly Cree at UUFSa, 904-471-0335 or bjcree@gmail.com.

Indivisible St Johns hosts Dr. Dale Anderson to speak on "How Fascism Works" September 12, 2019, 7-9 pm. At UUFSa

Dr. Anderson has delivered his talk all around the state of Florida: <https://charlottedems.com/how-fascism-works-presentation-hosted-by-charlotte-dems/>

Dr. Anderson's interest in fascism began in 2016 with the candidacy of Donald Trump. He has presented locally on a variety of subjects including "The Rise of Kleptocracy", "Is America Safe for Democracy", "A Scorecard for America".

He is currently the President of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota.

PIE IN THE SKY

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US TO



STAND UP FOR PEACE



Peace in the Park



**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 21, 2019**

10:00AM TO 1:00PM

EDDIE VICKERS PARK

399 RIBERIA ST

ST. AUGUSTINE, FL 32084

International Day Of Peace

**Help Us Celebrate 10 Years
of Peace and Service In
St. Johns County**

• AT 11:00AM WE WILL GATHER TO CREATE THE PEACE SIGN •



Be a "piece of the peace" and SPONSOR this great event!

***A donation of \$100 will get your name on our special edition t-shirts,
the Pie in the Sky Facebook page, and our website.***

***CONTACT: Malea at pyinthesky@comcast.net or call 904-382-9939
Deadline for sponsorships is August 15***