

# QUEST



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

**February 2020**  
**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 on our website.

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## **Board of Trustees 2019 - 2020**

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Trustee .....	Michael Read



The *Quest* is published monthly September through July.  
**Materials for the March issue are due by February 14.**  
Don Brandes, Editor: [donaldbrandes@gmail.com](mailto:donaldbrandes@gmail.com)  
Thanks to Adele DeSavio for proofreading and  
David Wright for printing each issue of the *Quest*.

# From Your President



The hardest thing I have to do as president is to navigate the fine lines where people's relationships intersect. The actual issues seem resolvable to me, but how we get there without bruising any egos is the tough part.

Last month I spent a lot of time trying to resolve issues that resulted from a proposed event and an announcement for it that had been submitted for the Quest. There was much communication and miscommunication.

For me the real issue was one of clarity of procedure. The short lesson is this: If someone wants to request the use of the UUFSA facility they should be directed to contact someone on the board. Submitting their request by email to the board is sufficient. Bringing it directly to the board in writing and with sufficient time prior to a scheduled board meeting will allow us time to distribute, review and consider it prior to the meeting so we can ask for clarification where necessary.

So, if anybody asks....

And, we should keep in mind that we are all human, we are all pretty busy, and we are all fallible. So when we do fall short, let's be kind, and acknowledge that things happen. We are all volunteers here!

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Lastly this month (literally!) Chuck Chambers has reserved Leap Day, Saturday February 29th for an all-members dinner. It is the start of our annual pledge drive, in preparation for our annual meeting in May where a budget for the 2020 – 2021 fiscal year will be presented and voted upon. I think this dinner will be an enjoyable affair. Save the date if you can.

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

**Sunday, February 2, 10:30 a.m.**  
**“Who Belongs in Your Family Tree?”**  
**Margaret M. Nicholson, PhD**

Service Leader: Jerome Fosaaen  
Music: Taffy Rook  
Story for All Ages

Before genetic testing, scientists believed most bird species were monogamous. Now they know otherwise. I doubt the feelings of bird parents or their offspring were affected by this new technology. Not so in the case of humans. Direct-to-consumer DNA tests have impacted not only feelings, but have changed the lives of many people.

That happened to me. At 73 years of age, I learned the daddy I grew up with was not my biological father. My DNA matched my maternal relatives so a hospital mix-up could be ruled out. I was meant to grow up with this mother and this daddy. After learning the identity of my biological father, I added a second paternal line to my family tree and overcame a 35-year struggle by publishing on Amazon *My Surprise Family: Find Your*

*Ancestry Story*, a mystery, a memoir, and a manual. Those processes transformed my perception of myself and altered my relationships with family members and my community. Have you jumped on the DNA bandwagon to see who belongs in your family? If not, do you plan to spit in a little tube and face the results?



Margaret reports that after being exposed to the idea that people were born good - *not* in sin - she left an evangelistic congregation in 1964 to join the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg. After ten years as wife and mother, she obtained an education, eventually earning her PhD at the University of Pennsylvania in 1985. Her work history includes social services, corporate planning, and university education. After living abroad for some years, Margaret returned to Pennsylvania, her home state. Her move to St. Augustine in 2003 was prompted by the birth of a grandson.

**Sunday, February 9, 10:30 a.m.**  
**“Soul and Spirit: Poetry and Prose by Black Writers”**  
**Organized by Jo Anne Englebert and Barbara Brenner**

Music: Alex Richman  
“This I Believe”: Robin Russo



To mark Black History Month, a celebration of the passion and power of black writers from Langston Hughes, Maya Angelou and Alice Walker to Frederick Douglass, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Toni Morrison. Selections will be read by Barbara Ollarvía, Jean Swann, Michael Israel, Dr. Dorothy Israel and Barbara Brenner.

**Sunday, February 16, 10:30 a.m.**  
**“Vedanta: Know your True Self and Be Free”**  
**Swamini Radhikananda**

Service Leader: Christine Fosaaen  
Music: Taffy Rook  
Third Sunday Food Collection  
Third Sunday Plate Donation: Children's Choice

To know and realize our true self to be free of all limitation and conditioning of body and mind is the key to total healing and self-integration, as well as freedom from confusion and sorrow in life. These universal teachings contained in the ancient Indian scriptures such as the *Upanishads* and *Bhagavad Gita* also reveal to us the secret of dynamic, balanced living and a joyous way to unfold the innate wisdom and inspiration within each of us. We can truly discover and live our highest destiny here and now!



Swamini Radhikananda (of Chinmaya Mission St. Augustine) has been teaching the *Bhagavad Gita* and other *Vedantic* (Non-dual) Indian scriptures for 30 years, having met and studied in-depth both in the U.S. and India since 1978 with her spiritual Master, H. H. Swami Chinmayananda and his successor, Swami Tejomayananda. She presently lives and teaches at the beautiful “Chinmaya Govardhan” center just outside of St. Augustine (Elkton). She considers it her greatest privilege and joy to share the life-transforming vision and joyous inspiration of these universal teachings with spiritual seekers from any religious background.

**Sunday, February 23, 10:30**  
**a.m.**

**“Florida's Future Farmers”**  
**Ryan Currie**

Service Leader: Robin Mahonen  
Music: Alex Richman  
Green Minute



Although Florida is famed for its tourism, the next most important industry for the state is agriculture. Many emergent issues will be driving changes in our food industry and delivery systems. How will we adapt to these impacts?

Ryan is a fourth - generation Florida farmer and owner-operator of Currie's Fresh Produce Market here in St. Augustine. He studied Agricultural Economics at the University of Florida.

# Leap Day Pot Luck Stewardship Dinner Saturday February 29th 4:30 until ??



Celebrate the gift of an extra day our calendar gives us this Leap Year.

Please plan to *leap* into this dinner as we kick off our new Pledge Drive for the upcoming year. Because our fiscal year starts on July 1, we need to start getting pledges to know how to budget for next year. We need to plan in advance so the Fellowship can approve a budget at the Annual Meeting in May.

Most importantly, please come and share the fellowship of the Fellowship. Bring something good to eat. Drinks will be provided. We should be finished in time to get home before dark. Great food, great friends, great Fellowship. Leap into this!

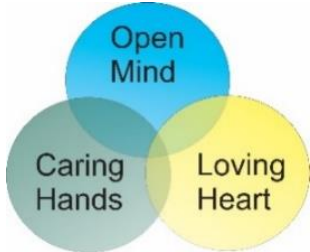
## Guest at Your Table Program

I want to thank you all for your generous donations to *Guest At Your Table* to help fund the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). I also would like to thank the children for helping with making and selling things for donations as well as helping to collect change for this project. The UUSC in turn will join with local organizations around the world to help put our principles into action. Our treasurer has informed me that we collected \$972.50 and a matching grant will turn that into a total of \$1,945.00 toward action.

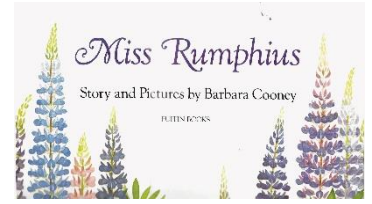
*Jindy Gelow*



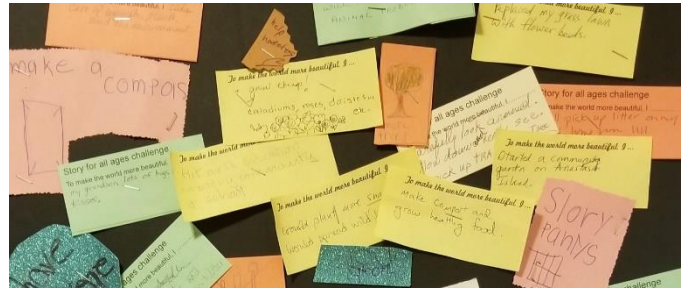
# Programs for Children and Youth



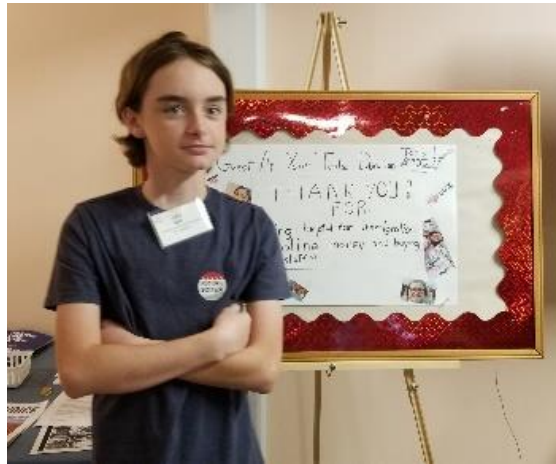
We began January with a Story for All Ages that challenged each of us to do something to make the world more beautiful. The heroine scattered seeds that grew into beautiful fields of lupines. To give our children ideas about what they could do to make the world more beautiful, we asked members of the



congregation to list one thing they had done. We received lots of great ideas from the congregation, and the children came up with novel ideas of their own.



January brought both joy and sadness. Among our joys was that we completed our **Guest At Your Table** fundraiser for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. The children were actively involved by selling Human Rights bookmarks, hand-crafted ornaments and other handmade items. We raised a total of \$972.50. A thank-you poster to the congregation was created by John and Lily Goff. John and Lily, together with their mother Abby, were also our January family chalice lighters.



Another joy was that we welcomed Kelly Sommer to our teaching staff. A graduate of Flagler College with majors in Sociology, History and Anthropology, Kelly is experienced working with children and has two young children of her own. We look forward to working with her. Please welcome Kelly to our UUFSA community!



Our sadness was that we had to bid farewell to the Goff family, Jeff, Abby, Lily and John, as they embarked on an extended sail on their catamaran to the islands of the south Pacific, New Zealand, Tasmania and Australia. We wish them fair winds and smooth sailing and look forward to their return as citizens of the world.

# **Skeptics and Believers: Religious Debates in the Western Intellectual Tradition**

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?

## **February 4 “Nietzsche and Genealogy of Morals” Nana Royer**

## **February 18 “Nietzsche – Religion and the Ascetic Ideal” Nana Royer**

**Tuesdays: 5:00 - 6:30 p.m., downstairs meeting hall, UUFSA  
Series Coordinator: Surindar Paracer, Co-chair, UU Adult learning  
Contact Surindar Paracer at 904-217-3802 [sparacer@worchester.edu](mailto:sparacer@worchester.edu).**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Discussion Leader</u>
March 10.....	Freud – Religion as Neurosis.....	Louis Post
April 7 .....	Barth and the end of Liberal Theology .....	Chris McDermott
April 21 .....	Modern Jewish Philosophy .....	Louis Post
May 5.....	Judaism and Modernity .....	Louis Post
May 19.....	Secular and Postmodern Theologies .....	Chris McDermott
June 9.....	New Atheisms .....	Richard Lahey
June 23.....	Pluralisms – Religious and Secular.....	Jane Mahoney

## From the Food Pantry



The year just ended was very busy for the St. Johns Ecumenical Food Pantry. The pantry gave out 5,554 bags of food to needy families in 2019. That was an eight - percent increase over 2018! UUFSA members have been generous in meeting this increased need. Our holiday collection, third Sunday food collection, and third month plate collection have provided large amounts of food and over \$1,600, an amount multiplied by bulk buying power.

The UU team operates the pantry twice per month. And we have a big presence on the Food Pantry fundraising committee: Cherie Dolgin, Ruth Weber, Robin Russo and Chris Fosaaen join the food pantry treasurer, Dorothy Shiver. The Food Pantry board is especially excited that Robin Russo will research grant opportunities in 2020. Thanks to everyone for contributing to this great community service.

For more information contact UUFSA Food Pantry Team Co-coordinators:  
***Cherie Dolgin 904-461-1604 or Chris Fosaaen 904-673-5630***

## **Great Decisions** **Monday, February 17, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.** **“India and Pakistan”** **Chris McDermott**

India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi rode a wave of Hindu nationalism to a historic reelection in 2019. His first order of business was to revoke the special status granted to the Kashmir region, inflaming the rivalry between India and Pakistan. How will the Kashmir situation affect the region, both economically and politically?

For more information, please contact Yosi at [jomcintire@bellsouth.net](mailto:jomcintire@bellsouth.net) or 904-461-3175.



## **Choir**

To all members and friends:

Do you like to sing? The UUFSA Choir would like you to join us! No audition necessary, and the ability to read music is not required. Come to the sanctuary at 9:30 any Sunday morning and jump right in!



## Flowers for Sunday Services



If you enjoy seeing flowers at our Sunday services, please sign up on the calendar downstairs in the Social Hall to bring them. If the flowers are in honor of a special occasion or person, just write up and hand the commemorative text to the Sunday Service Leader who will read it as part of the service announcements. Or, make your own announcement as part of "Joys & Sorrows." Please remember to take your flowers with you after the service so you can enjoy them all week long at home!

## New Year's Resolution 2020 Take a Turn as Coffee Hour Host

Our Fellowship enjoys a post-service coffee hour every Sunday. It gives us all a chance to catch up with each other, meet new members, greet guests, and interact with our speakers. It's a very social time that helps to knit our Fellowship together.

The UUFSA coffee hour is made possible by YOU. If you are able, please take a turn at being a coffee hour host during 2020. Hosts work in teams of two, and if you are new to the job, your Hospitality Coordinator will help you to team up with somebody who is an experienced host.

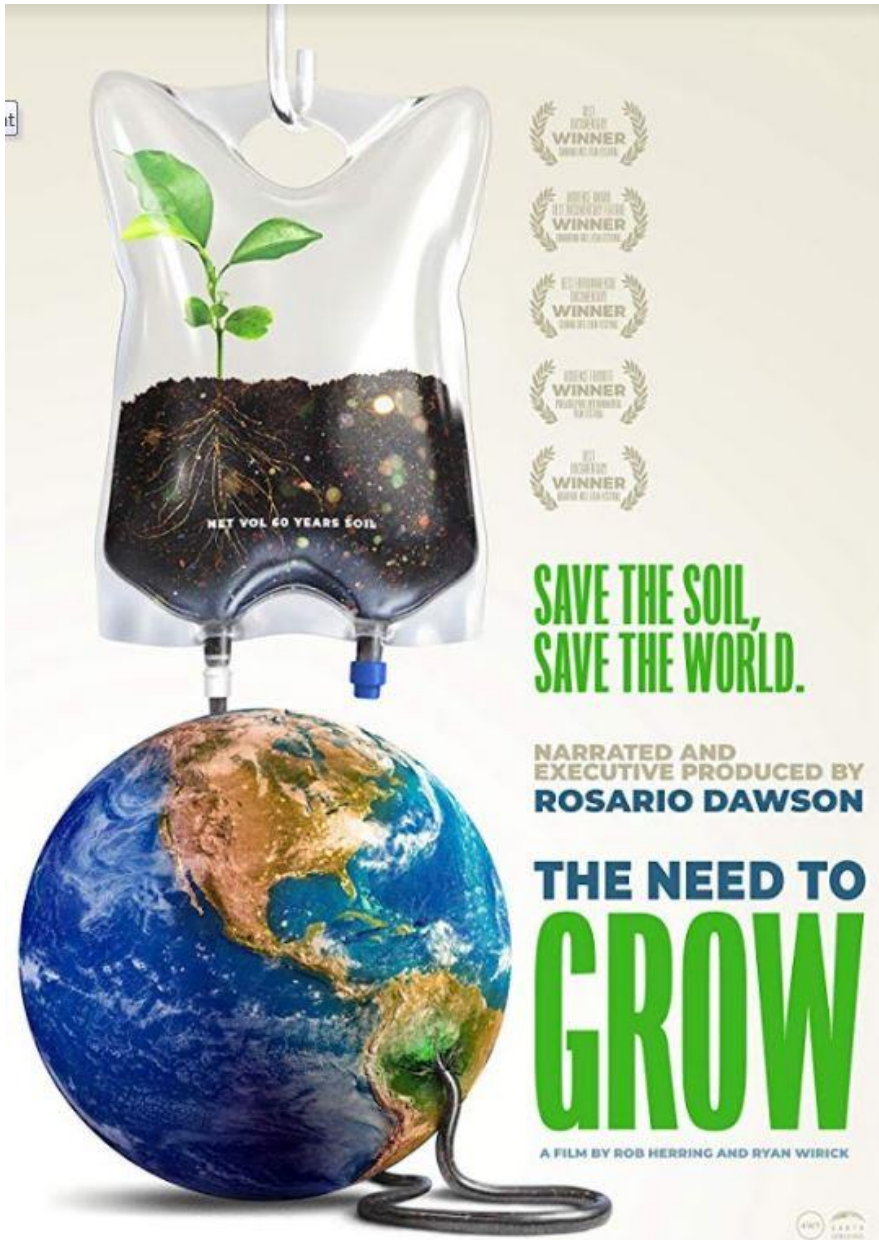


We are a small congregation, and we have about 50 coffee hours per year. If you take one turn every four months, our coffee hours would all be covered. How many turns have you taken so far?

To become a coffee hour host, please sign up on the calendar at the coffee station. For more information, contact Hospitality Coordinator, Rosi Angeli (text or call 904-315-4284). If you wish to have your food expenses reimbursed by UUFSA, please submit your receipts together with a disbursement voucher to UUFSA Treasurer Barbara Battelle.

Thanks go out to UUFSA members and friends who hosted coffee hours between September and December 2019: Rosi Angeli, Claudia Atkins, Don Brandes, Judy Brandon, Martha Buck, Chuck Chambers, Adele DelSavio, Fred Dolgin, Chris & Jerome Fosaaen, Priscilla Gulliver, Pat Hall, Gina Jonas, Mary Kellough, Sandy Lenny, Pat Maguire, Cal Marshall, Chris McDermott, Susan McLaughlin, Jon Miller, Peggy Nicholson, Kathleen & Surinder Paracer, Joyce Peterson, Michael Read, Robin Russo, Nana Royer, Kelly & Mark Shuford, Ruth Weber, and Rosemary Wheeler.

# Green Team



The Green Team, in co-sponsorship with the Native Plant Society, is screening a film, "The Need to GROW" on Thursday, Feb. 20, 7:00 p.m., in the UUFSa sanctuary. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. there will be no charge, although donations are gratefully accepted to cover cost of the film. Refreshments follow downstairs.

With only 60 years of farmable soil left on Earth, **The Need to GROW** offers an intimate look into the hearts of activists and innovators in the food movement. Narrated by Rosario Dawson (Marvel's The Defenders, The Lego Batman Movie), the film discloses alarming evidence on the importance of healthy soil - revealing not only the potential of localized food production working with nature, but our opportunity as individuals to help regenerate our planet's dying soils and participate in the restoration of the Earth. 96 min.

"No human being on this planet should miss this film." *Society of Voice Arts and Sciences*



## Green Team: Wetland Preserve Visit

Saturday, March 7, in the morning, the Green Team is offering an opportunity to visit the Wetland Preserve, a 3,400-acre stewardship forest in Putnam County near Palatka. You will learn more about native Florida and how a tree farming operation functions. The Williams family is working to re-establish longleaf pines that used to cover the southeast. The displays in their cabin are fascinating.

Nana Royer visited the preserve with her Master Naturalist class and found it very interesting and beautiful.

The Williams family states, "The long-term goals for Wetland Preserve are to preserve it as a wild space and open it for research. Wetland Preserve will never be bulldozed for a housing development or converted back into a high intensity farming operation as it was before we purchased it. We also work with groups and organizations like the Florida Native Plant Society and the Florida Wildlife Commission. By opening Wetland Preserve to them they are able to perform ongoing studies and gather information to help further their research."

Here is what to expect: Tours can be tailored somewhat to fit the group but generally you can expect 2-3 hours of time in the field. The tour will start at the cabin, which is also the Williams' family home. There is a guest bathroom and changing area available, as well as a large covered patio that is a good spot to enjoy a packed lunch or snacks. You also are welcome to leave a cooler in the shade there if you plan to eat lunch while visiting.

The tour will depart from the cabin and you can leave your car there. We will all hop on open air buggies. The roads are all well maintained but they are dirt and bumpy so be aware of that. Fourteen people will fit on the buggies with room for four more who are willing to ride in the back of a pickup truck, for a maximum of 18 attendees. If you would like to attend, we can arrange for carpooling from the Fellowship. As Ashley (the eldest daughter) will be about to have a baby and will not be available to guide children, this is an adults only activity. There is no charge for the tour; however, the family asks that a \$100 donation (for the group) be made to the North Florida Land Trust. We may opt to go out for lunch afterwards in Palatka. Please sign up on the clipboard downstairs. For more information please contact Nana Royer 904-377-1600, nana@nrdp.net or Chris McDermott 904-584-4045, surfbiker55@yahoo.com. Here's the link to the Preserve: <http://benandlouann.com/>



# Book Group

## Tuesday, February 18, 1:00 p.m.



The book for discussion is **CATCH-22**, by Joseph Heller. Barbara Brenner will be discussion leader. Please feel free to join us if you know or want to know something about this classic.

**For further info, contact Bobbie Brenner  
904-471-2099, [barbbren25@gmail.com](mailto:barbbren25@gmail.com).**

## 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  
 Pat Hall ..... 914-787-9184

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, February 2, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.** For more information, contact a member of the Dining with Dignity Team:

**Mary Kellough, 904-217-9837**





## Friday Darts Nights

### February 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](mailto:palshort@gmail.com), for details.

## Palmer's Pic

### February 28, 6:30 p.m.

### **THE MAN WHO LOVED WOMEN**

Renowned director Francois Truffaut is at the top of his form in this whimsical, lively story about an eccentric Casanova who loves every woman he meets. This playful romantic comedy is heartwarming, hilarious and highly entertaining.

*Palmer*



## February Calendar



- 1 – Sierra Club event 10:00 a.m. – noon
- 2 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 3 – Program Team 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 4 – Adult Learning 5:00 – 6:30
- 5 – Qigong Class 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- 6 – Indivisible St. Augustine 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 7 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 10 – Board of Trustees meeting 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 12 – Qigong Class 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- 14 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 14 – Deadline for March Quest contributions
- 16 – Third Sunday food donation during service
- 17 – Great Decisions, India and Pakistan 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 18 – Book Group 1:00 – 2:45 p.m.
- 18 – Adult Learning 5:00 – 6:30
- 19 – Qigong Class 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- 20 – Film: *The Need to Grow* 7:00 p.m.
- 21 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 23 – Green Team 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
- 26 – Qigong Class 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
- 28 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 28 – Movie, *The Man Who Loved Women* 6:30 p.m.
- 29 – Stewardship Dinner 4:30 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/>

## **GA 2020: Rooted, Inspired, & Ready! June 24-28, Providence, RI**

The theme for [General Assembly](#) in June 2020 is Rooted, Inspired, & Ready! We are in touch with our theological roots, we are engaged in transforming our faith and we are fired up to take action in the wider world.

### **Early Bird Registration Open!**

[Early Bird Registration](#) is open through March 15. Full-time registration rates are \$400 for adults, \$250 for high school youth and retired and candidate ministers, or \$150 for off-site participants.



### **Quick Links**

[Congregation and Related Organization Job Openings](#) | [UUA Job Openings](#)  
[Post a Congregation or Related Organization Job Opening](#)  
[TRUUsT](#) | [BLUU](#) | [DRUUMM](#) | [ARE](#)  
[OWL Facilitator Trainings Calendar](#) | [Renaissance Module Calendar](#)  
[UU Leadership Institute](#) | [LeaderLab](#)  
[Annual Program Fund \(APF\)](#) | [Stewardship for Us](#) | [Faithify UU Crowdfunding](#)  
[inSpirit UU Book and Gift Shop](#) | [UU World](#)  
[UUA Website](#) | [Southern Region Website](#) | Southern Region Facebook [Page](#) and [Group](#)