

# QUEST



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

**March 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 April issue are due by March 20.**

Don Brandes, Editor: [donaldbrandes@gmail.com](mailto:donaldbrandes@gmail.com)

Thanks to Adele DelSavio for proofreading and

David Wright for printing each issue of the *Quest*.

# From Your President



We are now about two - thirds of the way through our fiscal year, which ends June 30th. Here is some news I would like to highlight:

Barbara Battelle reports that pledges have come in a little faster than expected, and we have already received about 90% of them, a happy circumstance.

The Religious Education program has now hired both a teacher and a childcare person, positions that have been vacant this year until now.

There is an effort underway to assess needed improvements to our facility, spearheaded by Annette Jones, working with Michael Dixon, who is a preservation architect. At the February Board of Trustees meeting we approved a land survey which will allow Michael to determine what exactly can be done to improve the parking in the space we have available, and how many spaces we will be able to fit in once the resulting lot is striped per regulations. Improvement to the parking is a major goal, but there may be other significant improvements to both the exterior of the building and the grounds. Annette hopes to develop a plan to encompass a series of works which will include improvements to the memorial garden and restoration of the plaques which memorialize departed members. No decisions have been made to proceed with any major works, but you should expect to hear more at our Annual Congregational Meeting.

I am continually impressed with the generosity of our members toward one another. If there is some way you might benefit from a helping hand of some type, a ride to a doctor's appointment, some shopping, cooking or perhaps just some moral support, don't hesitate to reach out.

**Jerome Fosaaen**  
**904-417-7344**  
**[fosaaenj@gmail.com](mailto:fosaaenj@gmail.com)**

**Sunday, March 1, 10:30 a.m.**  
**“The 'Uh Oh' Antidote”**  
**Mark Yount, PH.D.**

Service Leader: Michael Read  
Music: Taffy Rook  
Story for All Ages

As our leaders invite rancor and our culture feels ever more toxic, recall the adage, "Resentment is like swallowing poison and expecting the other person to get sick." Can I avoid swallowing the poison in today's world, even in my personal life? Perhaps Mark's granddaughter's toddler perspective offers a clue: "Uh oh!"

Dr. Yount has given over a hundred sermons at Buckman Bridge Unitarian Church of Jacksonville, All Souls UU (Palatka) and UU Fellowship of Saint Augustine. He has degrees in Philosophy from William and Mary (BA), Villanova (MA), and the University of Colorado at Boulder (Ph.D.), and taught philosophy at Trinity College (Hartford), St. Joseph's (Philadelphia), and Jacksonville University. Dr. Yount also worked in behavioral health and human services. He is currently writing *Wisdom on the Way: Life, Truth and Spirit Beyond the Culture Wars*.



**Sunday, March 8, 10:30 a.m.**  
**“Esther Hill Hawks: A Woman with a Mind of Her Own”**  
**Margaret Kaler**

Service Leader: Jerome Fosaaen  
Music: Alex Richman  
“This I Believe”: Ruth Weber  
Family Chalice Lighters

Dr. Esther Hill Hawks taught black troops in the Sea Islands and Jacksonville, Florida during the Civil War. She visited St. Augustine on a pleasure trip turned dangerous, doctored the wounded after Olustee, ran a hospital and opened an integrated school for children in Jacksonville. Later, in Volusia County, she was vice president of the Equal Rights Association, and influenced Senator Purman in introducing a woman suffrage petition to the Florida Legislature.

Margaret Kaler tells the stories of historical women in first - person portrayals; these include Susan B. Anthony and Mother Jones. Margaret grew up in St. Augustine, acting with the Little Theater here. She studied theater at the University of Florida, did graduate work at Florida State University, and worked with the Asolo Theater Repertory Company. She has recently worked locally with Rising Tide Productions, and A Classic Theater.



**Sunday, March 15, 10:30 a.m.**  
**“Liberation and Self-Knowledge:  
Fruits of Feminist Thought”**  
**Jeffrey Nall, Ph.D.**

Service Leader: Gina Jonas

Music: Taffy Rook

Third Sunday Food Collection

Third Sunday Plate Donation: Wildflower Clinic

Dr. Nall contends we cannot uproot sexism without a deeper appreciation and understanding of the core insights of our feminist foremothers. In this talk, Dr. Nall, adjunct instructor of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Florida Atlantic University, illustrates the meaning and value of fundamental feminist precepts including the distinction between sex and gender and the notion that the personal is political. More than denouncing inequality, feminist thought reveals how common-sense thinking, shaped by thousands of years of patriarchal culture, undermines the goal of equality between men and women. As we celebrate one hundred years of women's suffrage in the United States, we should also pay tribute to the fruits of self-knowledge and liberation feminist thought continues to bear.



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 information on Dr. Nall's work, go to [www.JeffreyNall.com](http://www.JeffreyNall.com)



**Sunday, March 22, 10:30 a.m.**

**“Wide Awake and Dreaming”**

**Amy Jo Hutchison**

Service Leader: Robin Mahonen

Music: Alex Richman

Green Minute

“One of the hardest parts of my job is not being able to turn off. I was organizing years before I even knew it was a thing. Who doesn’t want to fix something that is affecting their life, right? I’ve always been that person with whom strangers share their business in the checkout line. It’s a gift I’ve inherited from my mom. The one thing I wasn’t prepared for was the fact that now I see inequity just about everywhere, whether it is socioeconomic status, race, or gender, to name but a few. I understand the meaning of “woke” more than I ever thought I would. Granted, it’s become a joke in certain circles of mine, but the truth is that I am awakening.”



Amy Jo Hutchison is a lifelong West Virginian whose lived experience has been poverty. Her greatest work is her daughters, despite the struggles of raising them alone. Her own experience feeds her passion for organizing poor folks, especially single moms, throughout West Virginia. She previously served as tri-chair with the WV Poor People's Campaign and spoke at national events. Most of her work has focused on organizing to protect the safety net, particularly SNAP benefits. Her experience has provided her the opportunity to testify before Congress to describe how poverty affects children and families, and the need to update poverty guidelines. She is an ordained minister, and proud graduated fellow with the WV Trainers Project through Training For Change.

When Amy testified before Congress last month, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez told her, “Your story has filled this entire room. You have been one of the most powerful witnesses I have ever seen in my short time here in Congress. Your testimony, I hope, will move and change the tide of how we treat poverty in this country.”





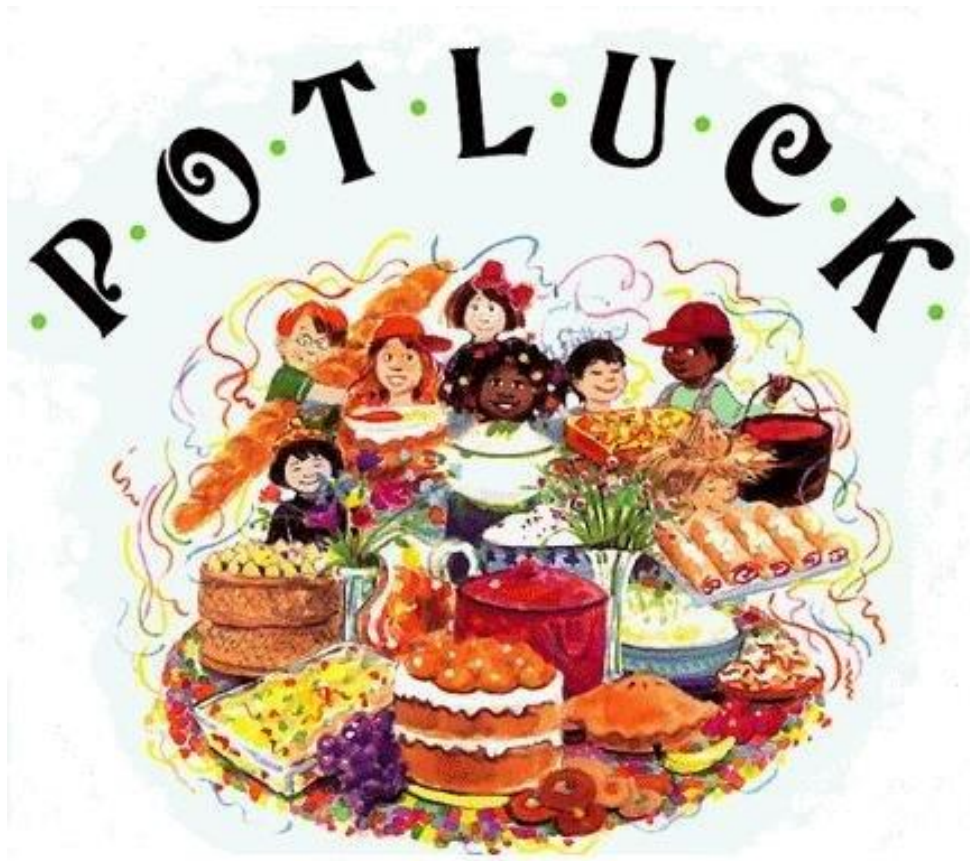
**Sunday, March 29, 10:30 a.m.**  
**"The Death of Manhood: Beyond Masculinity"**  
**Phillip Baber**

Service Leader: Nana Royer  
Music: Taffy Rook  
Green Minute

What does it mean to be a man in the day and age of "toxic masculinity?" In this sermon we will explore answers to this question, consider new definitions of "manhood," and examine the possibility of ridding ourselves of the notion of "masculinity" altogether.

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.





## **UUFSA Spring Potluck**

The UUFSA spring potluck lunch will be on the first Sunday of spring 2020, that is, on Sunday, March 22. It will be right after Sunday service.

Please mark your calendars. You do not want to miss this opportunity to feed and be fed by our Fellowship.

Sharing good company and good food strengthens our bonds with each other in fellowship. Please prepare a dish to share, keeping in mind that we will need some vegetarian and vegan options.

There will be hotplates to keep food warm as well as an oven and a microwave oven in the kitchen.

# Program Team



Your Program Team would like to ask for your feedback and support. It's now been two years adjusting to being a lay-led fellowship and we would like to know how we are doing. How you have felt and what you have thought about Sunday morning programming? Have you felt inspired? Informed? Bored? Are your spiritual needs being met on Sunday mornings? We don't want to run an official survey with tabulated statistical results; we just want to informally check the spiritual pulse of the members of our fellowship.

Remember, we pride ourselves on being a diverse congregation. As such, every Sunday may not be your special cup of tea, but it may be just the thing for your spiritual brother or sister who shares the fellowship with you. Things to consider? Topics I liked/didn't like; speakers I liked/didn't like; things I would like to see more; things I would like to see less.

Do you have a speaker you'd like to hear? Let us know who, and send us contact information please.

We are always looking for members to join the Program Team, or are willing to facilitate a Sunday program by being a Speaker, or a Service Leader. We know that many people fear public speaking more than they fear death itself, but it's not really that hard, and you will get lots of support.

We also would like to ask how you feel about a summer program this year. Should we try to have one, or should we take a summer break as we did last year? If you favor having a summer program, are you interested in helping facilitate it?

Thank you all for helping us to craft relevant and meaningful programming that addresses our UUA Seven Principles and meets a variety of the needs of our spiritual family.

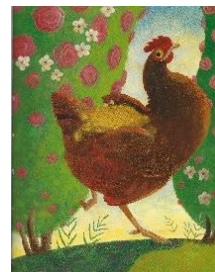
To respond to any of these matters, please contact Robin Mahonen, in person or at her email, [RRafael2@aol.com](mailto:RRafael2@aol.com), or call her at (304) 639-5538. If you'd like to remain anonymous, you can also drop a note in an envelope during the offering, labelled Program Team.



# Programs for Children and Youth



Our February **Story for All Ages**, read to the congregation in the sanctuary by our children, was “The Little Red Hen.” It is an old story that reminds all of us about the importance of working together. To quote the Little Red Hen: “For after all is said and done, working together makes working fun.” And our children practice that idea in their classes, as we should throughout our Fellowship.



In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday, we discussed with our children the importance of children in the civil rights movement of the 1960s, and we emphasized the wisdom in the title of Greta Thunberg’s book: ***No one is too small to make a difference***. The children were challenged to make signs expressing the ideas they would be willing to take to the streets and march for. They were not shy about expressing their ideas. We need to listen!!



February’s “Share the Plate” charity selection for the past few years has been our **Children’s Choice**. This choice is something our teachers and the children take very seriously, because we are asking the members of our congregation to donate to a charity that our children select. The children brought to their class a list of charities they might ask our congregation to support, they discussed what these charities do, and then, using the democratic process, they selected one. This year our **Children’s Choice** is the **Homeless Coalition of St. Johns County**. They selected this organization because of the work they do to support families with children and to assist homeless children. Did you know that during the last school year, there were nearly 800 homeless children in St. Johns County Public Schools? Our children recognize that some of their classmates may be homeless, and they are asking all of us to help.



Finally, it is with great joy that we welcome Virginia (Vee) Coulter to our teaching staff! Vee is primarily responsible for teaching pre-school children and, whenever possible, she will assist Kelly Sommer in teaching the school-aged children. Welcome Vee!

# **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?

## **March 10 “Freud – Religion as Neurosis” Louis Post**

**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>
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

## **UU Adult Learning for 2020-21 Proposal for Topics**

We are in the early stages in planning for next year's (2020-21) program topics for discussion. *Great Courses* has provided us with a wide variety of choices, but you may wish to choose differently.

I would like to invite you to propose topics for one or two or three evenings. Here is an opportunity to engage us all to have some serious conversation and learn from each other. Topics should have a broad appeal.

Please send me a note at [sparacer@worchester.edu](mailto:sparacer@worchester.edu) of your interest. My goal is to accommodate as many suggestions as possible. Best wishes,

***Surindar Paracer, Co-chair UU Adult Learning***

# **St Johns Food Pantry (AKA St Johns Ecumenical Ministries Inc.)**



UUFSA is one of 14 religious organizations in St. Augustine that have incorporated to fight hunger in St. Johns County. Our Food Pantry is open Monday – Friday, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. each week, to distribute groceries to individuals and families in need.

## **THIS IS HOW YOU CAN HELP**

1. Donate financially. Write a check to UUFSA and put Food Pantry on the memo line. Drop it in the basket at a Sunday collection or put it in the mail. Our treasurer will pass along all of the donations to the pantry. Go to [www.stjohnsfoodpantry.org](http://www.stjohnsfoodpantry.org) on the internet and donate via credit card or PayPal.

2. Bring a nonperishable food item and put it in the basket, which is located in the foyer, when you come to the Fellowship on a Sunday morning.

Some suggestions are: rice, cereal, canned fruit/vegetables, peanut butter and jelly, canned meat, powdered milk, pasta and sauce.

Thank you for any help you can give. If you have questions or wish to volunteer at the Food Pantry, please contact:

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

## **Great Decisions Monday, March 16, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

The Red Sea has remained vital for global trade since the time of ancient Egypt. Once home to the spice trade, the Red Sea now sees millions of barrels of oil a day transported across its waters. With major nations like China, France, Italy, and the U.S. building large ports and bases in the region, what does the future of the region look like? How important is Red Sea security for global security? Can the region be a place of global cooperation? The discussion will be led by Louis Post.

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

# Green Team News



We have been collecting postcards for the Northeast Florida Sierra Club's initiative to ask Publix to stop distributing single-use plastic bags at checkout – instead, advising them ask customers to bring reusable bags. These postcards will be batched and used by the Sierra Club in social media events before being passed on to Publix. If you have not filled out a card and would like to do so, they will be available at the Green Table. Also, if you have not signed the online petition, please do so:

[https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/stop-using-plastic-bags-publix?\\_ga=2.58550953.2044006854.1581345665-1259741901.1576779518](https://addup.sierraclub.org/campaigns/stop-using-plastic-bags-publix?_ga=2.58550953.2044006854.1581345665-1259741901.1576779518)  
or [www.sierraclub.org/florida/single-use-plastics](http://www.sierraclub.org/florida/single-use-plastics)

We still have room for signups for the Wetland Preserve visit on March 7, 10:00 a.m. – noon. Details are in the February Quest. The owners, Ben and Louann Williams, were awarded "Florida Land Stewards" of 2019. This is a good opportunity to see conservation in action by private citizens. For more info on the Preserve, go to <https://benandlouann.com>. Sign up on the clipboard at the Green Table. Car-pooling will be arranged from UUFSA.

Remember the dental recycle box – there are stickers all over it – you can't miss it. We're collecting used-up toothpaste tubes, boxes in which they are packaged, used floss containers, and toothbrushes. Colgate has a contract with Terracycle, which makes them into other products.

We also showed the film, ***The Need to GROW*** on Thursday, Feb. 20. It's the inspiring story of solutions to our deteriorating soils. If we fail to switch to a regenerative, decentralized network of local food ecosystems, if we don't proactively restore our greatest carbon sink (soil), if we don't empower people with the tools needed to participate in this cultural and technological transformation, quite simply, the world cannot sustain very much human life. Luckily, positive change is already happening. This is a story of the pioneers of those solutions.

By the time this Quest is published, there will have been another Litter Gitter cruise completed. Adam Morley's litter cruise seems to be popular, so we'll be arranging another one in the near future.

If you have kitchen scraps and you do not compost yourself, please deposit them in the compost bin near the rear of the building, to the north. We welcome all vegetable and fruit scraps, coffee grounds, egg shells, just not animal (meat) products that would attract varmints. You could keep a small container in your kitchen to accumulate scraps and/or put them in a plastic bag which you keep in the freezer. Let's try and keep the cycle back to earth going! We empty the black bin into a pile next to it for further breakdown and then use it on vegetation on the Fellowship grounds.

We welcome new members. If you have an idea to help make us "greener," please do join. See Chris McDermott, Nana Royer, or another Green Team member.

***Nana Royer  
for the Green Team***



## Book Group

### Tuesday, March 17, 1:00 p.m.



The book for discussion is ***The Institute***, by Stephen King. Sally Marks 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, March 1, 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 March 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](mailto:palshort@gmail.com), for details.

## Palmer's Pic March 27, 6:30 p.m. **IRON JAWED ANGELS**

Celebrating the one hundredth anniversary of the passing of the nineteenth amendment, giving women the right to vote, I've been asked to show the movie *Iron Jawed Angels* starring Hilary Swank as Alice Paul and Frances O'Connor as Lucy Burns. Angelica Huston also stars.



*Palmer*

## March Calendar



- 1 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 2 – Program Team 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 5 – Indivisible St. Augustine 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 6 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 7 – Green Team Wetland Preserve visit 10:00 – noon
- 9 – Board of Trustees meeting 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 10 – Adult Learning 5:00 – 6:30
- 13 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 15 – Third Sunday food donation during service
- 16 – Great Decisions, India and Pakistan 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 17 – Book Group 1:00 – 2:45 p.m.
- 20 – Deadline for April Quest contributions
- 20 – Darts 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 22 – Green Team 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.
- 27 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 27 – Movie, *Iron Jawed Angels* 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/>

## **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](#)