

# QUEST



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

**September 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/>

**All in - person activities are on hold until further notice  
to avoid spreading COVID-19.**

**Sunday services are being presented online through Zoom video conferencing.**

Audio transcripts of most past presentations are available on our website.

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## **Board of Trustees 2020 - 2021**

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The *Quest* is published monthly September through July.  
**Materials for the October issue are due by September 18.**  
Don Brandes, Editor: [donaldbrandes@gmail.com](mailto:donaldbrandes@gmail.com)  
Thanks to Adele DelSavio for proofreading.

# From Your President



Even with a multi-million-dollar book deal and a popular dance video, a brilliant husband and decent father to her children, Michelle Obama let people know she's feeling a bit down as of late. Holy cow! If someone like her can be depressed, I should be really depressed. Or not? How is it not depressing? The COVID-19 pandemic

continues to spread while we, the wary and cautious stay at home. And in the news we see proud Americans show up at rallies with stubborn smirks on maskless faces in defiance of any "common sense?" And while we're suffering from the virus, humans are experiencing the greatest displacement of people in recorded history. Some 66 million people are living as refugees or in camps. I'm continually amazed by the paucity of real news on television or in print here in the USA. We see story after story of the president, pundits and national polls, police misbehavior and racism, sporting prospects and struggling health care workers, but nothing on the crisis in North Africa, the Middle East and south Asia. When was the last time PBS or any broadcast media did a story about climate change or the war in Syria? Our world is having a tough time of it; best we focus on reopening Disneyland and whether the economy might tank. Some suggest the reason why media and money-obsessed politicians don't pay attention to what matters most is simple: the destructive changes won't affect our major trade partners and will largely affect the poor. THEY will suffer but our stocks will be okay. Are we ignoring the world's sorry state at our peril? Maybe that's a legitimate reason to be down? What to do?

This month I'll try to exert a bit more effort on behalf of the candidates who seem to care about what's important to me. I'll fight the good fight – even when the polls tell me it's a long shot. And throw a bit more spare coin in the donation basket. And why not? You can't take it with you. The other thing is to keep writing, creating, laughing. And so here is my answer to you, dear Michelle and dear friends. Look up there might be a rainbow. My poem.

## Rainbows and the One in My Mind

Rainbows just show up in the sky  
They're easily missed if you're busy  
And not something to rent or buy  
Or built from bands of light you see.

Blue on green on pink on red  
Or is it sometimes the other way?  
The one I imagine now in my head  
A remake and different as today

The bands rearranged to suit my fancy  
Rainbows are real but can't be kept  
Just the one I carried with me  
A memory or a dream while I slept

The prism science can explain and decloak  
But we can imagine a mystical wink  
As eyelash cloud and blue fade to pink  
A cosmic gasp of unfettered joy awoke.

Rainbows last just for an instant  
Do you remember green or blue on top?  
I wish to be sure but I just can't.  
The amazing flash and then full stop.

**Chris McDermott**  
**571-265-4189**  
**surfbiker55@yahoo.com**

**All Sunday services will be presented online through Zoom video conferencing until further notice. The meeting ID will be posted on the UUFSA website, [www.uufsa.org](http://www.uufsa.org), and will be emailed to everyone on the UUFSA members and friends lists several days before each service. If you are not on either of those lists and would like to be, please contact Don Brandes at [donaldbrandes@gmail.com](mailto:donaldbrandes@gmail.com)**

**The starting time for services has changed to 9:30 a.m. instead of the traditional 10:30 a.m. to avoid overloaded Zoom servers during the peak church hour.**

## **Sunday, September 6, 9:30 a.m.**

### **“Love, Support and Parenting”**

### **Cindy Hill-Nobles**

Service Leader: Renee Jones

Music: Alex Richman

Story for All Ages

Raising children comes with a wide array of trials and challenges. How do parents of LGBTQ+ children navigate the current climate while raising children to have self-confidence, and a feeling of acceptance and support?

Family support and acceptance is critical to the health and wellbeing of people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer. PFLAG (Families, Allies and People of the LGBTQ+ Community) has been on the forefront of helping families and fighting intolerance for over four decades.



Join us for a compassionate presentation by Cindy Hill-Nobles, the Vice President of PFLAG in Jacksonville, who will tell us about PFLAG'S programs and how the organization helps families and friends of LGBTQ people.

Cindy Hill-Nobles is a wife, mother of four, and business owner. As a mother to two LGBTQ+ children, she has dedicated her community service work to improving the lives of LGBTQ+ children by helping to counsel families toward a path of acceptance and family unity. Cindy holds a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice Administration and a Master's degree in Women's Studies from the University of Michigan.

<https://pflagjax.com/>

**Sunday, September 13, 9:30 a.m.**  
**"Beyond These Walls, Beyond These Broken Hearts"**  
**Andrew McKnight**

Service Leader: Chris McDermott

Music: Taffy Rook

This I Believe



*Beyond Borders*, Andrew's first CD in the wake of the September 11, 2001 tragedies, is rich with themes of personal growth and challenging our individual "comfort zones." Several of these songs together lay out a compelling and provocative look at our footsteps and those awaiting the arrival of our feet, often leading us places we never imagined for ourselves. Moving through the exquisite emotional landscapes of love and loss, life and what lies beyond and before, Andrew's words and music provide a soundtrack and narrative to ponder the mysteries of the human experience.

"Sometimes the world thrusts itself into our neat tidy little lives, just when we find ourselves perhaps too comfortably settled in our routines. Love and loss, life and death, evolution and metamorphosis: all never ending threads of the human experience. We spend our lives defining ourselves, only to have the universe rewrite our definition with little or no input from us. It is how we dare to embrace those changes that truly define us. We may draw our boundaries and borders, paint and decorate them, but in the end they still bind us inside a carefully delineated emotional and spiritual comfort zone.

"I choose in this moment to live life where it happens, where the wondrous and the painful intersect and blend. Living is about things remembered, and things to come, about acknowledging life's hardships and losses, and there is always hope and faith that there are beautiful footsteps yet to be taken. We know the sand is falling, but the hourglass is opaque; and we have no way to know how many grains remain. Cherish each and all of them."

<https://andrewmcknight.net/>

**Sunday, September 20, 9:30 a.m.**

**“Shaping Peace Together”**

**Robin Mahonen**

Service Leader: Robin Mahonen

Music: Alex Richman

Third Sunday Plate Collection: Food Pantry

(See instructions for how to donate online on page 8.)

Each year the International Day of Peace is observed around the world on September 21st. The International Day of Peace was established in 1981 by the United Nations General Assembly. Two decades later, in 2001, they unanimously voted and declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. The United Nations invites all nations and people to honor a cessation of hostilities during the Day, and to otherwise commemorate the Day through education and public awareness on issues related to peace.



To bring this message of peace home, we will honor peace today by re-dedication of our own Peace Pole, and will share stories of what a Peace Pole means, and how it came to be at UUFSa. See more about our Peace Pole on page 7.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-day-peace>

## **Sunday Zoom Hosts Needed**

The people who used to sit in the sound booth during services, but who now host the Zoom services during this time of COVID-19, need help. Right now, we have only two people, Barbara Battelle and Jerome Fosaaen, to provide this service. Ideally, we should have two people each week, a host and a co-host, to ensure the smooth functioning of each service. There are however, inevitably going to be occasions when one of both of our hosts cannot both be available. We need more depth on the bench and more volunteers in the production and presentation of our services.

These tasks do not require great technical knowledge. Jerome and Barbara will provide instruction and support as you learn. If you would like to join this vital team, please call Jerome or Barbara to discuss how you may contribute. You will learn new skills and have some fun as well.

**Jerome Fosaaen, 904.417.7344**

**Barbara Battelle, 904-540-3720**



# **Sunday, September 27, 9:30 a.m.**

## **“UUA General Assembly in the Time of COVID”**

### **Jerome Fosaaen and Chris McDermott**

Music: Taffy Rook  
Green Minute



The UUA General Assembly (GA) was conducted remotely with no group meetings due to Covid-19 restrictions. The main themes were the importance of the upcoming elections to Unitarian Universalist values and concerns, and the need to authentically address white supremacy and white cultural dominance in our church's past, daily life, and leadership.

One key message coming from the GA was that UUs need to change or watch their religion fade with decreasing membership and fellowships. In this regard, they are no different than other religions in the West. A collection of very astute

essays on possible ways to reform and grow are found in “The Turning Point,” edited by Frederic Muir. Reading this book helped me understand the various talks given here and there over the four days. For instance, the reformers cite “the trinity of errors” as being excessive focus or insistence on:

- a. Individualism (it's about me! And not the community)
- b. Exceptionalism (North American cultural dominance)
- c. Anti-authority stances (if it isn't science, everyone's opinion is equal)

And the reformers see the future in emphasis on the Beloved Community, embracing a multi-cultural and diverse approach to leadership and visioning our future.

Do the opinions of the reformers and those who insist on change clash with the opinions of those who aren't so sure? What does the future hold for the Unitarian Universalist brand of religion?

<https://www.uua.org/>



# Peace Pole Restoration

You are invited to visit our fellowship building and grounds to see the new "planting of our Peace Pole." It is outside so there is no need to enter the building.

The pole was given to our congregation in 2010 with a great deal of help from Joyce Peterson. The weather, insects, sun and general wear had done quite a bit of damage. It has been re-painted by Annette Jones. Now it is on display again, so come discover it in its new spot.

Don Trousdell (1937 - 2013) is the original artist. He was born in New Jersey, worked in Cleveland and Atlanta, and then moved to St. Augustine. While here, his two most popular art shows were "Walk in Peace" (2011) and "Ordinary People" (2013).

Come find symbols on our pole that combine world symbols related to peace. Discover an Olive Branch, Asian Triad, Palm Leaves, Doves, Peace Sign, Mistletoe, Sunflowers and words of hope in this stressful time when we truly cannot be together as we wish.

More information on the meaning of the peace signs displayed on our Peace Pole will be presented in our upcoming Quests.

These pictures were taken before the pole was put back into the ground in a prominent place where it will be seen by anyone walking to the front door from the parking lot.



# Donating on the UUFSA Website

Please take a look at the [UUFSA.org](https://uufsa.org) website. COVID-19 has made face-to-face gatherings unsafe but we continue to offer Sunday services and more. You can make your weekly plate donation online now on the UUFSA website. Scroll down the home page and you will see a button labeled “UUFSA Plate.”



Click on the button and you will go to a page where you can choose to give to the UUFSA or one of the local charities we support.

Once you select a recipient, the screen will change and let you decide how much to give. There are set amounts and also a button that says “\$0.00.” If you click on the “\$0.00” box you will then have the option to write in any amount you choose.



## UUFSA Plate

**\$0.00 - \$100.00**

\$10	\$20	\$50
\$100	\$0.00	

<b>Donate</b>
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### Description

These donations will go to the UUFSA

You can pay with Apple Pay, Google Pay, or by credit card on the next screen. It's simple and safe. Our Treasurer and others have examined the online options and this one seems very safe and secure.

**You also can still donate by check.** Please make all checks payable to UUFSA. If you wish your check to be applied to your pledge, write "Pledge" in the memo line. If you intend the check as a miscellaneous donation, write "Plate." If you wish to make a contribution to one of the charities we support, write the name of that charity on the memo line. Mail checks to:

UUFSA  
2487 A1A South  
St. Augustine, FL 32080



# Your Program Team Needs You!

"We need one another when we mourn and would be comforted.

We need one another when we are in trouble and afraid.

We need one another when we are in despair, in temptation, and need to be recalled to our best selves again.

We need one another when we would accomplish some great purpose, and cannot do it alone.

We need one another in the hour of success, when we look for someone to share our triumphs.

We need one another in the hour of our defeat when with encouragement we might endure and stand again.

We need one another when we come to die, and would have gentle hands prepare us for the journey.

All our lives we are in need, and others are in need of us."

George Odell

From our "Singing the Living Tradition" hymnal, #468

We are part of a fellowship, and we are lay led, which means that it's on all of us. We have no minister, which means we rely entirely on the efforts of our family of volunteers to make our Sunday morning worship services meaningful and inspiring. We are a very talented and diverse community with a variety of interests; we hope you may consider sharing your unique talents and interests with us. Right now, we are seeking Service Leaders, Sharers, and 'This I Believe' Presenters.

Some of our most meaningful and best liked programs have been what we call "Sharing Services", where a few congregation members talk briefly about their point of view on aspects of a particular spiritual topic, in order to inspire further thought, congregational reflection and discussion.

From the dictionary, we hear that "share" means:

- To have or give a portion of (something) with another or others.

"He shared the pie with her."

- Use, occupy, or enjoy (something) jointly with another or others.

"They once shared a UU fellowship in St. Augustine."

Services have been scheduled for:

- September 20: "Shaping Peace Together." Monday the 21st is International Peace Day. Today will be a day for us to share the history of our UUFSA Peace Pole, and our musings on world peace.
- November 1: "Day of the Dead and Water Communion." A day to share our memories of loved ones who have passed to the other side.
- November 29: "What Fertile Ground." A day to marvel at our spiritual connections with Mother Earth.

If you have something poignant to share with us, or for more information, please contact Robin Mahonen, at RRafael2@aol.com or (304) 639-5538, or come to the next Program Team meeting!

**Next Program Team Meeting Via Zoom**

**Monday, September 7, 5PM**

**Meeting ID: 897 5373 7742**

# We Remember

In the past year, our Fellowship has experienced the death of several members and friends. We wish to remember them here, and inform Fellowship members who might be unaware of their passing.

UUFSA members and friends who passed away in our 2019/2020 service year are:

- Florence Abarbanal
- Elle Barry
- Shannon Barry
- Abe Cohen
- Tom May
- Janet O'Rourke
- Gene Schepers
- Charlie West
- Ron Zamora

These names will all be inscribed in the Memorial Plaque mounted on the rear wall of our Sanctuary.

To remember those who have passed away, we renovated the Memorial Garden. It now includes a memorial brick for each Fellowship member who passed away since 1995. Ten of the original wooden memorial markers were deteriorating, so we replaced them with memorial bricks. There are now more than twenty memorial bricks in our garden.

The next time you're on UUFSA grounds, please take a moment to visit the renovated Memorial Garden and to remember those who are no longer with us.

Appreciation goes to the Site Development and Landscaping Team for this work.

**Rosi Angeli**



# **St. Johns Food Pantry**

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



The Saint Johns Food Pantry has had a busy summer. The pantry is now serving the community five days per week with drive-up and walk-up service from 1:00 to 4:00 Monday through Friday. The UU team staffs the pantry on the second, fourth, and fifth Thursday afternoons from 12:30 to 4:00 PM. Our team packed and distributed 160 bags on August 13 with help from a volunteer from Anastasia Baptist Church and a volunteer from Saint Anastasia Catholic Church. Big thanks go to Annette Jones, Mary Kellough, and Sandy Lenny for an amazing job. If you would like to volunteer with the team, please contact Chris Fosaaen or Cherie Dolgin.

To make a donation to the food pantry, please send a check to UUFSA, with a notation on the memo line: "Food Pantry." Mail your check to UUFSA, 2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32080. Donations can also be made directly to the food pantry by sending checks to St. Johns Ecumenical Ministries, PO Box 860191, St. Augustine, FL 32086. Or you can go to their website, [www.stjohnsfoodpantry.org](http://www.stjohnsfoodpantry.org) or the UUFSA website, to donate via credit card or PayPal. Thank you very much for your support.

Donations of food are always welcome. Peanut butter, jelly, soups, canned fish, cereals, and other non-perishable items are needed. Food donations can be dropped off during open hours. The food pantry parking lot entrance is found on Isabel Street near the Habitat for Humanity office building at 7 Hopkins Street.

**Co-chair: Chris Fosaaen, phone: 904-673-5630; email: [cfosaaen@gmail.com](mailto:cfosaaen@gmail.com)**  
**Co-chair: Cherie Dolgin, phone: 904-461-1604; email: [cdolgin@bellsouth.net](mailto:cdolgin@bellsouth.net)**

## **Care Connection**



Our Care Connection remains dedicated to providing support and assistance to members and friends during this challenging time. In recognition that we won't be able to physically come together for a while, the Care Connection encourages you to reach out safely. Let's check in on each other. If you are concerned about someone's well-being, give them a call, or inform a member of our team. And don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it. Contact one of our members listed below if you are in need of a helping hand or would like to be involved with the Care Connection Team. And remember, we are all connected through our shared commitment to our faith and to each other.

Claudia Atkins, Chair ..... 386-717-6765  
Adele DelSavio ..... 315-529-6287  
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



# Adult Learning

## UUFSA Adult Learning: 2020-21

### Tuesdays, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

#### Part 1. Science and Religion

##### Coordinator: Richard Lahey

##### Tentative Schedule

September 8 .....	God the Watchmaker .....	Surindar Paracer
September 22 .....	Natural Theology and Arguments from Design .....	Surindar Paracer
October 6 .....	Geology, Cosmology and Biblical Chronology .....	Barbara Battelle
October 20 .....	Darwin and Responses to Evolution .....	Surindar Paracer
November 10 .....	Fundamentalism and Creationism .....	Louis Post
November 24 .....	De Beauvoir, Hypatia, Hildegard and Wollsentcrat .....	Renee Jones
December 8 .....	Why Evil Exists .....	Chris McDermott

#### Zoom login information

Through Oct 20, 2020:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82859597177>  
 Meeting ID: 828 5959 7177  
 Password: 495321

Nov 10, 2020 through Dec 8, 2020:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82211021377>  
 Meeting ID: 822 1102 1377  
 Password: 180319

#### Part 2. Science and Religious Experience: The Spiritual Brain

##### Neurotheology: A New Perspective on Ancient Questions

##### Coordinator: Surindar Paracer

January 5 .....	Why Do We Have a Spiritual Brain?
January 19 .....	Brain Function and Religion
February 2 .....	Believers and Atheists
February 16 .....	Spiritual Development
March 2 .....	The Myth-Making Brain
March 16 .....	The Brain and Religious Rituals
March 30 .....	The Biology of Spiritual Practices
April 13 .....	Religion and Health
April 27 .....	Religion and Brain Dysfunction
May 11 .....	Transmitters to God
May 25 .....	Near-death Experiences and the Brain
June 8 .....	The Believing Brain
June 22 .....	The Brain's Influence in Religious Ideas
July 6 .....	How the Brain Changes God
July 20 .....	How God Changes the Brain
August 3 .....	Why God Won't Go Away
August 17 .....	The Mystical Mind
August 31 .....	Reality and Beyond



# Dining With Dignity

Our next opportunity to provide a nourishing meal for the homeless will be **Sunday, September 6, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.** Food listed on the monthly emailed menu must be dropped off at UUFSA between 3:30 and 4:00 p.m. so everything can be assembled for distribution at 6:00 p.m. downtown. This is the new routine during COVID-19. For more information, contact **Mary Kellough**, [Lkellough@comcast.net](mailto:Lkellough@comcast.net), 904-217-9837.



## Great Decisions

Great Decisions will NOT meet in September. It will recommence in October with Ed Cocoran presenting on US relations with The Philippines. For more information, please contact Yosi at [jomcintire@bellsouth.net](mailto:jomcintire@bellsouth.net) or 904-808-2717.

## Book Group

**Book Group meetings are suspended until further notice.**



## Friday Darts Nights

**Darts nights are suspended until further notice.**

## Palmer's Pic

**SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**



## September Calendar



- 6 – Food drop-off for Dining with Dignity 3:30 – 4:00 p.m.
- 6 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 7 – Program Team 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 8 – Adult Learning, online 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 10 – Food Pantry 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.
- 14 – Board of Trustees meeting, online 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 18 – Deadline for October Quest contributions 5:00 p.m.
- 20 – Third Sunday Plate Collection: Food Pantry
- 22 – Adult Learning, online 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 24 – Food Pantry 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.

# Beyond Our Congregation



PFLAG of Jacksonville cordially invites you to join us

**Monday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.**

to honor the 2020-2021 Scholarship Recipients virtually for

## **The Annual Scholarship Recipients Celebration**

Unfortunately, due to the global pandemic, COVID-19, we will not be hosting an in-person banquet this year. However, we invite you to fix your favorite meal, gather with your loved ones, and join us virtually via YouTube Live Stream. We will have personal stories shared by each of the 10 scholarship recipients, as well as a live chat and ticker, words from our sponsors and past recipients, and much more. For

additional information, scan the code to the left or visit [pflagjax.org/scholarship](https://pflagjax.org/scholarship).



#PFLAGJAXScholars

Hosted by Mindy Stamulis and  
Angel Russell

**Would you like to make a donation to the  
Scholarship Program?**

**Please make checks payable and send to:**

PFLAG of Jacksonville, P.O. Box 2971, Jacksonville, FL 32203

Or visit [PFLAGJAX.ORG](https://PFLAGJAX.ORG) for other ways to donate.

Unite in Supporting Education for our  
LGBTQ+ Families and Friends