

QUEST



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

March 2021

2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32080
3/4 mile south of State Road 312

uufsacontact@gmail.com <http://www.uufsa.org/>

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

**Sunday services and the Sunday children's program are being presented
online through Zoom video conferencing.**

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

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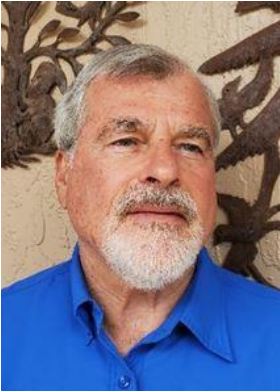
The *Quest* is published monthly September through July.

Materials for the April issue are due by March 19.

Don Brandes, Editor: donaldbrandes@gmail.com

Thanks to Adele DelSavio for proofreading.

From Your President



What makes the UUFSA run? How does it function without a minister? We are a community of contributors and that is the heart of what we do at UUFSA. Since its inception in 1968, the Fellowship has brought succor to the needy in our community and beyond. Just as importantly, we have found ways to share with each other the good and not so good times together. Of course, it's a work in progress – building this 'community of love.' This column is about us and how much is done purely through the benevolence and volunteer spirit of our fellows. Let me emphasize that we are at a critical juncture in our Fellowship, as some "heavy hitters" are finding they need to step back, and we need some of us to step up and pick up where they have left off. Your (as of yet) undiscovered talents are ripe for discovery. For instance, we need more people to help out in a number of areas – from Communications and Social Action to helping with services, and the time for stepping up is now. Won't you please call me (or another Board member) to talk about how you could play a key role in carrying out the amazing things we have done and will do, with you on board, of course. We'll be waiting for your call.

How well do U know your UUs? Who are they? If you think you know, the first two UUs who answer 10 of the 13 questions correctly AND get back to me (email) first/second will get a prize. Board members and trustees are NOT eligible. First names are okay, and the term 'fellows' is not sex or gender-specific. All decisions made by the judge (me) are final and all awards – well, that's a surprise but, hint, it is something you can eat/drink.

1. This UU is the only president who served two consecutive terms in the past two decades, knows a song or two, and has strong connections to the mountains.
2. Considered by many to be the founding father of our Fellowship? Have you seen the plaque?
3. Star of stage, screen and choir, this crooner also makes a great pot of coffee.
4. Two of three names (first names) are required for this item. They are famous for bringing good food and good cheer to others, and don't watch football/baseball on Sunday afternoon.
5. Some mice live in old shoes. Some UUs live in old houses, and some in condos. This UU doesn't live on land or in the air. Who are they (non-sex specific pronoun)?
6. Lots of UUs have compact discs (CDs) and even a few have cassettes and some very few (probably not admitting it) have cartridge players at home (or in the car). This UU, however, is a former president who leans toward youthful endeavors, and keeps several large CDs frequently needing attention.
7. Fond of brush and pen, this UU might be sending notes in an Elizabethan script that you've probably never seen before.
8. A true leader in every sense of the word, this former president has a green thumb, green message and even a green costume to get the word out on communing with the planet.
9. This former president once presented a talk on David Bowie and is known (secretly) as the Oz-like Wizard behind the curtain.
10. Frequently seen and not heard, this UU contributes to several of our programs in the community, is a regular on the Litter Gitter, and in a prior life, talked a lot about the art of governance.
11. One UU has been with us for some time and is known as "the hub" of our Fellowship. But, this UU will "chide with pride" if you manage to miss a deadline.
12. South of the Border – replete with human-sized mice in Mexican sombreros at the entrances and exits – has to be the most memorable rest stop on the I-95 corridor. These two fellows travel south and other compass points to bear witness at the border. Also, one of them has been known to pound a nail or two in our UU home. Two names.
13. This UU loves the outdoors and gardens; they can often be found there when no one else is looking.

There you have our UU identification questions. Who are they? They are to be identified as soon as possible. Please send your responses to me, Chris McDermott, and I'll announce the winners and their replies soon after. Mc noodle55@gmail.com Thanks and good luck!

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, 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 send a note to uufsacontact@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, March 7, 9:30 a.m.
“Our Six Sources: Wisdom from World Religions”
Phillip Baber

Service Leader: Chris McDermott
Music: Taffy Rook
Story for All Ages

Many Unitarian Universalists are well-versed in the “Seven Principles” found within the UUA Association Covenant; however, considerably fewer are familiar with the “Six Sources” embedded in the same document. In this talk, we will reflect upon what it means to be a faith with a permeable theological membrane that is open to accepting the wisdom and perspectives of other faith traditions, and we will consider “best practices” to responsibly and honorably engage that which is held as sacred by people across the world who are very different from us.

Phillip Baber is the pastor of The People’s Church of Jacksonville and the Regional Director of the Poor People’s Campaign of Northeast Florida. He is the former pastor of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville and has served as 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.



Sunday, March 14, 9:30 a.m.
**“Feminisms*, the 7th UU Principle, and Covid:
The Interwoven Web of Gender, Race, and Class”**
Dr. Patricia Maguire

Service Leader: Gina Jonas

Music: Alex Richman

This I Believe: Chris Fosaaen



The UU Seventh Principle calls upon us to understand and respect the interdependent web of all existence. Similarly, feminisms* provides a lens to help us understand that women, indeed all people, experience our lives – our oppressions, struggles, and strengths – differently based on the interwoven web of our identities such as gender, race, class, age, and so forth. This program uses Feminisms and the 7th UU Principle to explore how the COVID pandemic has inequitably affected women and people of color. The program concludes with suggested calls to action. *Feminisms in the plural is used to acknowledge that there is not one, monolithic feminist standpoint.

Dr. Patricia Maguire – Feminist, Scholar-Practitioner, Activist, Mom, Wife: Dr. Patricia Maguire, Professor Emeritus of Education and Counseling, retired from 25 years as the Chair of the Western New Mexico University – Gallup Graduate Center. Located on the edge of the Navajo Nation and Pueblo of Zuni, the WNMU – Gallup Graduate Center served one of the most culturally rich and linguistically diverse yet economically poorest communities in the USA. Dr. Maguire’s 1980’s participatory research with Navajo women included a groundbreaking feminist critique of early participatory research, published as *Doing Participatory Research: A Feminist Approach* (1987; 4th ed 2000). Her life of activism, teaching, research, publishing, and international speaking focuses on the connections between feminisms and knowledge creation. You can see her collection of work at <https://www.patriciamaguire.net>

Pat has been active in the US Peace Corps community since 1977. She has been a Peace Corps volunteer (Jamaica 1977-1979), a Peace Corps trainer (Africa, Jamaica and USA 1979-1987), and directed the WNMU-Peace Corps Fellows Program (2000-2010). She is currently a board member for First Coast Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, in northern Florida.

Pat has also volunteered with asylum seekers on the US-Mexico southwest border, marched and witnessed for social justice, counseled high school students, worked with battered women, led Girl Scout troops, and volunteered locally to help feed the hungry. She was a Board of Trustees member of the UUFSA for 2½ years and organized the Coffee Hour for 3 years. She and her husband Calvin Marshall, also a UUFSA member, recently celebrated their 44th anniversary. Cal and Pat have two daughters.

Sunday, March 21, 9:30 a.m.
“Does God Have a Gender?”
Rev. Nadia Siritsky

Service Leader: Ruth Weber

Music: Taffy Rook

Third Sunday Plate Collection: Home Again St. Johns



Most of us grew up being told that God has a gender ... and that gender is male ... recently this has been revisited and new prayer language has been created ... but how authentic is this? What can we learn from other religious traditions and contemporary gender theory that can transform our understanding of God ... of religion ... of ourselves? Join Rabbi Nadia as she leads us in this important conversation.

Rabbi Dr. Nadia Siritsky, MSSW, BCC serves part-time as rabbi for Temple Bet Yam, while also working as a hospital leader and administrator in Louisville, Kentucky. She fell in love with the St. Augustine community while leading Bet Yam for High Holy Days and has welcomed every opportunity to return since then. She has extensive experience as a congregational rabbi, and an interfaith hospital and hospice chaplain and social worker, as well as a psychotherapist.

Chris McDermott Office Hours
Thursday Afternoons, 3:00 – 5:15 p.m.

I'm going to be holding "office hours" every Thursday afternoon from 3:00 – 5:15 p.m. at the UUFSA until further notice. Come by to chat, share news or meditate. We'll be social distancing and/or masking, and we will probably hang outside, weather permitting. I'd like to just keep it open and if those present want to meditate – we'll sit down for that, or we can pull weeds with Mary or just chat. Please bring a chair (for outside), your drink (no throw-a-ways please) and your mask. When you come by, you might want to bring your monthly donation; you can drop it in the mailbox out front. A two-fer! In this time of COVID-19, we are unable to safely gather all at once, but I believe we can safely meet in small groups for a limited time period. Thursday afternoon. We'll try this day and time and adjust if it's not suitable. See you there!

Chris

Sunday, March 28, 9:30 a.m.
**“Tending a Spiritual Garden:
One Artist's Insight into Everyday Practice”**
Andrew McKnight

Service Leader: Robin Mahonen

Music: Alex Richman

Green Minute

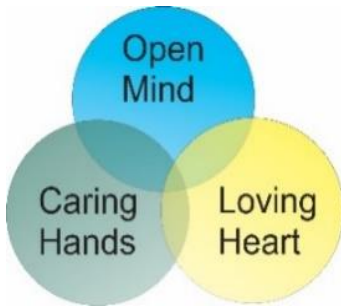
By its very nature a performing artist's lifestyle makes everyday routines difficult. Andrew McKnight provides some interesting and humorous musical insights into centering and grounding in a frenetic world.

Andrew McKnight is a former environmental engineer turned award-winning singer/songwriter and guitarist from the foot of northern Virginia's Blue Ridge. His musical journey is nearing a million miles of America's blue highways and scenic backwaters. His music and messages are infused with great reverence and warmth for the human journey and our place on this magnificent blue ball. In addition to his nationally acclaimed performing and recording career, our fellow UU has devoted much of his energy and passion to causes and issues dear to our faith. Connect with him at:

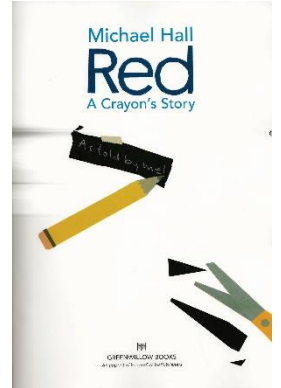
<https://www.andrewmcknight.net/index/>



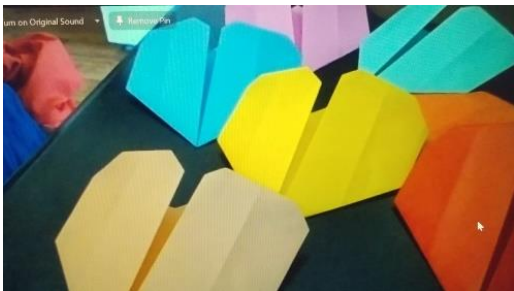
Programs for Children and Youth



At this writing, the students in UUFSA's *Harry and UU Hogwarts School for Social Action* are finishing up their discussion of the **Horcrux of Hate**. Central to this unit was a discussion of the story **RED, A Crayon's Story**, February's **Story for All Ages**, which the students read to the congregation. We hope you enjoyed the story and that it made you think, as it made our children think. You can find all the **Stories for All Ages** read by our children on our website: UUFSA.ORG. Click on Religious Education in the blue banner then Story for All Ages. You can also find them under Past Sunday Services.



The children decided that for their major project to combat hate they will create a **Buddy Bench** for our UU Fellowship. A Buddy Bench is a place you can sit if you are feeling lonely, or sad, or are just looking for someone new to talk to. The children know that if they see someone sitting alone on a Buddy Bench, it is their invitation to sit down and talk with that person. The Buddy Bench is meant to promote inclusion, and the concept works for adults as well as for children! The children will begin work on their Buddy Bench sometime in April.



For Valentines Day, the children discussed the many kinds of love and the many ways love can be expressed. They created garlands of origami hearts of many colors to represent the many kinds of love.

Along with fighting Horcruxes and doing fun crafts, we seek to develop leadership skills among our students. To that end, Helen, our Enchanting Activist from the First UU Church of West Volusia, taught the class how to construct Monster Books, and Lily taught us how to make the garlands of origami hearts.



To learn more about or to join our program, please contact Professor Kelly Sommer (Kelly.winton@gmail.com) or Co-Headmasters of the UU Hogwarts School of Social Action Jindy Gelow (jindyms@yahoo.com) or Barbara Battelle (Battellebarbara@gmail.com).



UUFSA Pledge Drive is Happening!

OK. The world has gotten pretty strange in the past year. But the UUFSA continues to be a part of our lives in this time of COVID-19. Many of us have been fortunate to be able to receive the vaccine. A return to our old ways of actually being with each other physically will happen again. In the meantime, the UUFSA has adapted in many ways and continues to provide inspiration and service. We will continue into the future, but as before, we need your support to make it happen.

One thing you can do today is take some time and fill out the Pledge Form below and mail it back to the UUFSA. We will reopen and we will continue to provide a bright spot in the lives of our members and friends to enjoy on a regular basis. We will continue our fight to serve others, to seek social justice, and provide care to others in need. But we need your pledge to make this happen.

Since we are not meeting in person yet, it is easy to let this slide. But all you need to do (if you have not already) is sign the Pledge Form below and send it in. No money required! Nothing fancy here. This is for the next fiscal year – 2021-2022. It's going to be a year unlike any other. That much is for sure. And we will want, and need, to reach out and receive fellowship from our UUFSA friends. Please do this today.

Annual Pledge 2021-2022



I/We wish to support the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Saint Augustine by pledging financial support during the next fiscal year of \$_____.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Print: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Print: _____

Please return the signed form to: UUFSA, 2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32080.
You may provide funds to fulfill the Pledge when you wish. Your Pledge is confidential and known only to the Stewardship Committee and the Treasurer. Please return by March 5th if possible.
THANK YOU!

Your Stewardship Committee



When Might We Expect to Resume Sunday Services in the Sanctuary?

The members of UUFSA's Health Safety Team (Fred Dolgin, Cal Marshall, Pat Maguire, Surindar Paracer and Barbara Battelle) were recently asked by the Program Team and Board to address this question. Their response is included here.

The short answer is: We don't know. But here are our thoughts.

It should be relatively safe to resume in-person services when all folks who want to be vaccinated have been vaccinated. The hope is that this may be sometime in late fall; however, that estimate may change depending on several current unknowns, such as the rate of spread of variants of the virus and their impact; the efficacy of the currently available vaccines against these variants; and whether the vaccines suppress the spread of the virus as well as serious disease. Details about what restrictions will be needed to resume in-person services in relative safety (i.e. mask wearing, social distancing, etc.) must be worked out as the time for in-person services approaches.

The time frame for resuming the social hour downstairs is an entirely different matter that will have to be considered separately. That means it is very likely that services in the sanctuary will probably resume well before it is thought relatively safe to resume the social hour downstairs.

The bottom line is that services will be virtual when they resume in August and probably for several months after that. Even when we can resume in-person services, the A/V team is planning to provide hybrid services so that congregants will be able to join in virtually as well as in person. This will require the purchase of considerable additional hardware that we hope the Fellowship is willing to support.



UUFSA Adult Learning

Your Spiritual Brain on Religion: The Neuroscience of Religious Belief

6:00 p.m. on Zoom

March 2: The Myth-Making Brain

Our brain is a myth-making machine. Why and how does the human brain make myths?
(Campbell and Moyers, *The Power of Myths*)

March 16: The Brain and Religious Rituals

Rituals make myths not only cognitive but also experiential. Rituals are rhythmic and repetitive. Rituals act to synchronize emotional and motor processes within the central nervous system of individual participants. Rituals may be individual or in groups.

March 30: The Biology of Spiritual Practices

The biological underpinnings of prayers and meditation

Zoom login through August 31:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83179766261?pwd=bFZ3aXN1MHRtaWxScXBGVVnkV0hZQT09>

Meeting ID: 831 7976 6261

Passcode: 145234

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

Great Decisions

March 15, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on Zoom

“Global Supply Chains and National Security”

led by Richard Lahey

Great Decisions is an informal discussion group that meets most third Mondays at 6:00 p.m. to develop awareness, understanding, and informed opinion on U.S. foreign policy and global issues.

Until further notice, we meet on Zoom:

<https://tinyurl.com/y4p9x5pk>

Meeting ID: 216 526 385

Passcode: 831270

The 2021 discussion topics are:

- April 19: “Brexit and the European Union,” led by Chuck Chambers
- May 17: “The Korean Peninsula,” led by Chris McDermott
- June, July, August: SUMMER BREAK
- September 20: “China and Africa,” led by Surindar Paracer
- October 18: “Persian Gulf Security,” led by Louis Post
- November 15: “The End of Globalization?” led by Cynthia Thompson

Guests are always welcome. Please join us and consider bringing a friend!

For more information, please contact Yosi at jomcintire@bellsouth.net or 904-808-2717.



Dining With Dignity

Our next opportunity to provide a nourishing meal for the homeless will be **Sunday, March 7, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.** Food listed on the monthly emailed menu must be dropped off at UUFSA between 4:30 and 5:00 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, 904-217-9837.



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



Every Friday the UU food pantry team works hard providing food assistance for our community. Volunteers currently include Annette Jones, Mary Kellough, Marsha Williams, Sandy Lenney, Mary Holmes, Jon Gorecki, Maggie Hankamp, Pat Maguire, Cal Marshall, Nana Royer, and Jerome Fosaaen. We have all had a first COVID vaccine and several team members have completed the second round.

Thanks for all your support. We congratulate the UU team and everyone who helped us succeed in meeting the many challenges the food pantry has faced over the past year. If you would like to join this volunteer effort or have any questions regarding donations of food or money, please call or email Chris Fosaaen or Cherie Dolgin.

Co-chair: Chris Fosaaen, phone: 904-673-5630; cfosaaen@gmail.com
Co-chair: Cherie Dolgin, phone: 904-461-1604; 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 904-864-1303
 Rosemary Wheeler 352-339-4157
 Anne Wilke 904-797-1944

March Calendar



- 1 – Program Team 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 2 – Adult Learning, online 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 4 – Chris McDermott office hours 3:00 – 5:15 p.m.
- 5 – Food Pantry 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.
- 7 – Food drop-off for Dining with Dignity 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- 7 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 8 – Board of Trustees meeting, online 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 11 – Chris McDermott office hours 3:00 – 5:15 p.m.
- 12 – Food Pantry 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.
- 15 – Great Decisions online 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 16 – Adult Learning, online 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 18 – Chris McDermott office hours 3:00 – 5:15 p.m.
- 19 – Food Pantry 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.
- 19 – Deadline for March Quest contributions 5:00 p.m.
- 21 – Third Sunday Plate Collection – Home Again St. Johns
- 25 – Chris McDermott office hours 3:00 – 5:15 p.m.
- 26 – Food Pantry 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.
- 30 – Adult Learning, online 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.