

QUEST



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

July-August 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 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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Secretary	Maureen Herth
Treasurer.....	Barbara Battelle
Trustee, past president.....	Chris McDermott
Trustee	Cal Marshal
Trustee	Rosi Angeli



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Materials for the September issue are due by August 20.
Don Brandes, Editor: donaldbrandes@gmail.com
Thanks to Adele DelSavio for proofreading.

From Your President



Hi Everyone!

When my husband Tony and I joined a UU congregation in Greater Philadelphia 15 years ago, it was to meet people with similar values and for a sense of community. We joined the UUFSA when we moved to St. Augustine for the same reasons and we have not been disappointed. We are experiencing a congregation that operates from a place of mutual respect and love, and opens its arms to everyone with similar values and a belief in social justice for all. *We thank you all for welcoming us.*

Despite a tumultuous year, members and friends have continued caring for one another and supporting issues they truly believe in, including compassion; poverty; hunger; LGBTQ and human rights; voter suppression; political parties; environmental; Black Lives Matter; equality, and diversity. And, as the country opens again after the COVID shutdown, our compassionate and caring people are doubling down on supporting these issues and making the world a better place. *We thank you for caring.*

Even during the shutdown our busy members did not stop. As many of you may have heard, our Re-Opening Committee is hard at work developing plans and actions that will ensure your safety as we begin in-person services on August 22. Many people have been working hard inside and outside the Fellowship upgrading common areas and beautifying our surroundings. A new play/community area is being built with room for the children's swing set, picnic tables, raised beds, benches and a tent for outside meetings. New artwork is being installed in the Sanctuary, lobby and downstairs community area. New video equipment is being bought to offer hybrid services and remote workshops to our community. *We thank you all for being involved.*

Finally, I would like to thank Chris McDermott, our outgoing President, and the board for guiding us through a very difficult year. As we enter a new worship year in August, the new board and I look forward to serving you and building on what has gone before. We also look forward to hearing your ideas and comments on a regular basis. We need you all to ensure we remain a vibrant and caring congregation.

In Peace.

Renée

Renée Jones

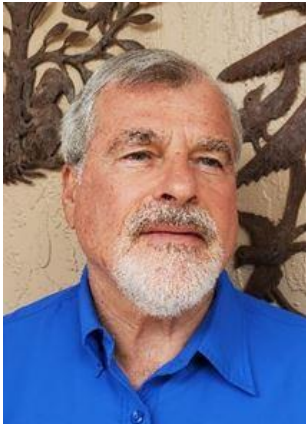
267-514-5302

renee@scggroup1.com

P.S. Please follow UUFSA on Facebook where we post up-to-date news about the Fellowship and social justice issues. <https://www.facebook.com/uufsa>

And One More Thing Before I Go...

Never say “Goodbye,” as the song goes (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HvIv5qrhDUM> for the 1987 version by the Communards). Hard to believe it’s come to this. But, my one-year term ended June 30, just as the pandemic recedes and gives us a little breathing room. Out with the old, that’s me. Now in with the new, that’s Renée Jones. A warm welcome to Renée.



It was some 15 months ago that we shuttered our Sanctuary and switched to online services via Zoom. Some of our congregants adapted quickly while others took a little effort to figure it out, and a few just opted out. I hope we’re back in full strength once we open up again. Meanwhile, I’d like to thank a few “UU Superstars” for taking us from the AV world to the Zoom world in record time; Buzz Lightyear would be proud. Our superstar techie list would include Jerome Fosaaen, Barbara Battelle, Nana Royer and Alex Richmond, and all those who overcame their hesitation and figured out how to Zoom and stay in touch. Thank you for holding it together.

Over the past year, we held Sunday services and, overall, our survey shows we mostly agree the quality was excellent. More than ever, we appreciate Robin’s mastery of the program arena, attracting a wide variety of guest speakers and ensuring diversity. We learned more about our UU traditions, systemic racism and how we can resist it, and with gentle nudges from Renée, we agreed to become a welcoming congregation. By September, I anticipate that our on-line streaming in and streaming out capacity will permit services held in person AND on-line. In addition, we managed to continue (or expand) our community contributions during the pandemic, which brought economic distress and food insecurity for so many. Adult education and youth/child education provide intellectual stimulation and a chance to learn together. To make our sanctuary a bit safer, we have recently installed i-wave filters on our heating and AC systems (upstairs and down). The filters kill microbes passing through the air handler and require minimal maintenance. Outside the building, Mary Kellough and her team have found ways to clean up and improve the landscape, including the memorial garden and some new trees. Thanks to all of you who chipped in, including Palmer with his music and movies.

Looking ahead, Renée will be presiding over our Fellowship as we return to “normal” services on Sunday and regular use of the facility for so many activities. I’m sure we will savor the chance to come together at the UUFSA this fall, and once again reconnect with our members and friends. To conclude, I’d like to thank the Board and members for their encouragement and support during the past year, and all of you who stepped up to keep our Fellowship thriving. Thank you and see you ‘round.

August Sunday Programs

Sunday services are canceled during July and early August for summer break to give our overworked Program Team time to regenerate.

Services will resume in person in the Fellowship building and on Zoom on August 22. If you desire to join on Zoom, please use this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4750592013>

Sunday, August 22, 10:00 a.m.

“On the Side of Love”

Renee Jones and Gina Jonas

Our new President and Vice President will present a program introducing our theme for the Worship Year.

Sunday, August 29, 10:00 a.m.

“Water Communion”

Robin Mahonen



Robin Mahonen will lead us in our traditional UU Water Communion.

We expect to be back in our beloved Sanctuary for this program.

REMEMBER TO SAVE WATER FROM ANY OF YOUR SUMMER TRAVELS AND TRAVAILS.



Dining With Dignity

Our next opportunities to provide a nourishing meal for the homeless will be **Sunday, July 4 and August 1, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. New instructions:**

We will now be cooking & serving our diners home-cooked meals at the corner of Bridge St. & Granada St. Set up is by 5:45 to serve at 6 p.m.



If you are interested in joining this monthly event, please contact:

Mary Kellough: LKELLOUGH@comcast.net, 904-217-9837.

Donating on the UUFSA Website

If you elect to attend services online rather than in person, you can make your weekly plate donation online now on the UUFSA website: UUFSA.org. Scroll down the home page and you will see a button labeled "Donate."



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 enter any amount you choose.

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 (Food Pantry, Home Again St. Johns, or Wildflower Clinic), write the name of that charity on the memo line. Mail or hand-deliver checks to:

UUFSA
2487 A1A South
St. Augustine, FL 32080

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



The St. Johns Food Pantry will continue its regular schedule in July and August. It is open Monday-Friday afternoons, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The UUFSA team is covering every Friday afternoon and is led by Chris Fosaaen.

If you wish to become a volunteer, please contact Chris Fosaaen at 904-673-5630. Or if you have more general questions about the Pantry, please contact Cherie Dolgin at 904-461-1604.

If you would like to donate to the Food Pantry, you can send a check made out to UUFSA and note Food Pantry on the memo line. Our Treasurer, Barbara Battelle, will then send one check to the Food Pantry. The Fellowship's mailing address is: UUFSA, 2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32080. Or if you prefer, you can donate via PayPal, on the Food Pantry's website at www.stjohnsfoodpantry.org.

**Wishing everyone a safe and relaxing summer,
Chris and Cherie**

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. 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.

Maureen Herth, Co-Chair.....904-463-1032
 Claudia Atkins386-717-6765
 Adele DelSavio315-529-6287
 Pat Hall914-787-9184

Rosemary Wheeler, Co-Chair .. 352-339-4157
 Cynthia McAuliffe 904-864-1303
 Anne Wilke..... 904-797-1944

UUFSA Adult Learning

UUFSA Adult Learning will be on summer break during July and August.

For the month of September, 2021, we are in the process of scheduling one or two sessions with discussion centering around gender equality and transgender issues. If anyone is interested, please send an email to sparacer@worchester.edu.

From October, 2021 onward, our focus will shift to the parallel history of American Political thought with Joseph Kobylyke (South Methodist University) and Unitarianism in 18th and 19th centuries. Both emerged from the spirit of the Enlightenment and sciences. American political thought has repeatedly accommodated changing realities, giving the nation a philosophical flexibility to meet the challenges of a changing world.

You are invited to join this inquiry to discover how we got to where we are now in America.

Thank you very much and I wish you all a happy summer vacation.

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

Great Decisions

Great Decisions will be on summer break during July and August.

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.

The Autumn 2021 discussion topics are:

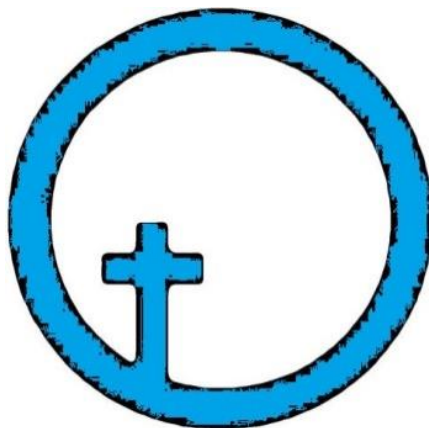
- September 20: "China and Africa," led by Surindar Paracer
- October 18: "Persian Gulf Security," led by Louis Post
- November 15: "The End of Globalization?" led by Cynthia Thompson

Meetings will be on Zoom until further notice:

<https://tinyurl.com/y4p9x5pk>

Meeting ID: 216 526 385

Passcode: 831270



Universalist Convocation

August 6 - 7, 2021

You're Invited!

Come to the Universalist Convocation, August 6-7 in Georgia

All UUs are invited to attend! The 2021 theme is "The Universalist in Me."

Since 1990, Unitarian Universalists have been celebrating their Universalist heritage at an annual convocation. For the first time, the Universalist Convocation is going to be held at Northwest UU Congregation in Sandy Springs (Atlanta), GA.

The mission of Universalist Convocations is to gather Unitarian Universalists together to learn, explore and celebrate the rich history of the other U in our UU faith tradition.

Guest speakers include Rev. Peter Morales, former UUA President; Rev. Dr. Mellen Kennedy; Rev. Rhett Baird and Rev. Vernon Chandler, Co-Founder of the Convocation.

You can [register now](#). Registration fee for Friday and Saturday is \$35. The Saturday-only program is \$25. Registration closes July 30.

See the [program flyer](#) for speaker info and topics. You can also visit the website for [full program details](#).

For your benefit, here are the actual links.

Register now: <https://universalistconvocation.org/register/>

Program flyer: <https://universalistconvocation.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2021-Universalist-Convocation-Flyer.pdf>

Full program details: <https://universalistconvocation.org/program/>

July - August Calendar



July

- 2 – Food Pantry 1:00-4:00 p.m.
- 4 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 9 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 12 – Board of Trustees meeting online 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 16 – Food Pantry 1:00-4:00 p.m.
- 23 – Food Pantry 1:00-4:00 p.m.
- 30 – Food Pantry 1:00-4:00 p.m.

August

- 1 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 6 – Food Pantry 1:00-4:00 p.m.
- 9 – Board of Trustees meeting online 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- 13 – Food Pantry 1:00-4:00 p.m.
- 20 – Food Pantry 1:00-4:00 p.m.
- 20 – Deadline for September Quest contributions 5:00 p.m.
- 27 – Food Pantry 1:00-4:00 p.m.

On the Lighter Side . . .



Submit a short joke/piece of entertaining humor you'd like to share for consideration to Michael Read at mickread@gmail.com.

My friends keep telling me I should lose weight and get in shape. Don't they realize round is a shape?

Always remember that you are unique, just like everyone else.

The world is neither round nor flat. It's crooked.

The Golden Rule: Whoever has the gold makes the rules.

The brain is the most outstanding organ. It works for 24 hours, 365 days, right from your birth until you fall in love.

Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.

I'm great at multi-tasking – I can waste time, be unproductive, and procrastinate all at once.

And God said to John, "Come forth and you shall be granted eternal life." But John came fifth and won a toaster.