

# QUEST



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

**September 2021**  
**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 and the Sunday children's program are being presented**  
**online through Zoom video conferencing at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4750592013>**  
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 October issue are due by September 17.**  
Don Brandes, Editor: [donaldbrandes@gmail.com](mailto:donaldbrandes@gmail.com)  
Thanks to Adele DelSavio for proofreading.

# From Your President



Dear Friends:

Before recent horrific events, I had my President's letter written with a different focus. Now, I start with the terrible news that Afghanistan has fallen to the Taliban and the Afghan people are already hiding in their homes for fear of retribution and possible death.

For nearly ten years, I have mentored, with the Peace Through Business Program, many businesswomen in Kabul and the interior of Afghanistan as they start, build and maintain successful businesses. Our goal was, and is, to help these women become educated and economically independent. Hundreds have become successful business owners and leaders in their communities – two even becoming legislators. This is a fine program and a great example of US taxpayer dollars well spent. <https://ieew.org/giving/>

We are heartbroken and will do our best to preserve what Peace Through Business has built over the last 12 years.

On the home front, at the August 22 service, we unveiled our theme for the year – “On the Side of Love” and our goal of striving to be compassionate in everything we do and say, especially in our interactions with other members and our wider communities. Also, we are planning to organize all our social justice issues under this one theme – as the UUA has already done.

UUs, “the love people,” have been showing up for years to embody our values, take courageous action, and build together as part of broader movements for justice and freedom. Our UUFS is no different, with our support of many social justice issues including hunger & poverty; human rights; climate change & the environment; immigration & asylum; LGBTQ freedoms; and healthcare (paraphrased liberally from the UUA website).

We are a small congregation with a limited number of volunteers and we thank our members for all they do for social justice. In order to spread the volunteer load, we will continue partnering with regional social justice groups and build alliances with others. If you have any suggestions for groups you think would be a good fit for a UUFS partnership, let us know at [renee@scggroup1.com](mailto:renee@scggroup1.com).

***Please Side With Love!***  
***Peace***  
***Renée Jones***  
***UUFS President 2021-2022***  
***[renee@scggroup1.com](mailto:renee@scggroup1.com)***  
***267-514-5302***

All Sunday services will be presented online only through Zoom video conferencing until further notice. The starting time for services has been changed to 10:00 a.m. To join the Zoom meeting, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4750592013> after 9:30 a.m. on Sunday morning.

## **Sunday, September 5, 10:00 a.m.**

### **“Protecting Worker Rights”**

#### **Ed Slavin**

Service Leader: Gina Jonas

Music: Alex Richman

Story for All Ages



We, the People, working with free democratic labor unions, have made steady progress on this planet since the New Deal empowered workers. President Joe Biden is the most pro-worker, pro-union President since Franklin Delano Roosevelt. What's next?

Ed Slavin will speak on protecting worker rights this Labor Day weekend in the midst of a global pandemic where, now more than ever, worker rights must be protected and not neglected.

Ed is the only offspring of two workers who helped organize unions. As a local newspaper editor, he exposed the largest mercury pollution event in world history, which permeated Oak Ridge Y-12 Nuclear Weapons Plant workers' bodies and the environment. He later represented whistleblowers and other discrimination victims. He's lived in St. Augustine since 1999. He is a former legal counsel for the Constitutional Rights at Government Accountability Project, counsel to the AFL-CIO Occupational Legal Rights Foundation, and law clerk to USDOL Chief Administrative Law Judge Nahum Litt and Judge Charles P. Rippey. He has a B.S. in Foreign Service, Georgetown University and a J.D. from Memphis State University (now U of Memphis).

### **Sunday Announcements**

If you have a brief, UUFSA-related announcement you would like the Service Leader to relay to the fellowship at the beginning of our Sunday services, please submit it by email to the Service Leader no later than 24 hours before the Sunday service. Please send it directly to the Service Leader for the specific date you request. Due to time constraints, and the many diverse interests of the members of this fellowship, only UUFSA events will be announced. The Service Leaders for September are:

September 5: Gina Jonas, [gina.jonas@gmail.com](mailto:gina.jonas@gmail.com)

September 12: Nana Royer, [nanaroyer@gmail.com](mailto:nanaroyer@gmail.com)

September 19: Renée Jones, [renee@scggroup1.com](mailto:renee@scggroup1.com)

September 26: Ruth Weber, [rweb423@gmail.com](mailto:rweb423@gmail.com)

**Sunday, September 12, 10:00 a.m.**  
**“My Love of History”**  
**David Nolan**

Service Leader: Nana Royer  
Music: Taffy Rook



David Nolan helped start the nonprofit Anniversary to Commemorate the Civil Rights Demonstrations, or ACCORD, and helped bring national attention to St. Augustine’s civil rights struggles. ACCORD created a trail of important civil rights sites in St. Augustine and also opened a civil rights museum on Bridge Street.

Nolan, who moved to St. Augustine in 1977, also helped record the first survey of buildings in St. Augustine. The survey included information such as the age, history and architectural style of the buildings. He said he already had an interest in the city’s buildings before taking the job. He used to go to garage sales in the city shortly after he moved to town, which was kind of like getting a free home tour, he said.

Nolan wrote *The Houses of St. Augustine* and speaks frequently on history, architecture and other subjects, and has spoken at UUFSA on more than one occasion. In addition, he is the author of *Fifty Feet in Paradise*, a history of the development (and overdevelopment) of Florida,

On July 2, 2009, the 45th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, he received the President's Volunteer Service Award from Barack Obama.

He has served as president of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society and trustee of the Fort Mose Historical Society



**Sunday, September 19, 10:00 a.m.**  
**“The Impacts of Toxic Romanticism on Mental Health”**  
**Rosemary Ketchum**

Service Leader: Renee Jones  
Music: Alex Richman  
Third Sunday Plate Collection to Wildflower Clinic

This presentation identifies the social, mental, and emotional impacts of toxic "love culture" on our mental health, and our ability to build secure intimate relationships.

Rosemary Ketchum is a member of the City Council of Wheeling, West Virginia, representing Ward 3. She is also Associate Director of the National Alliance on Mental Illness Greater Wheeling Drop-in Center and on the boards of several organizations, including the West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy. She has served as a guest on MSNBC and the TODAY show and has been profiled by several publications including *Time* magazine. She has been featured on CBS and CNN for her work in community organizing and politics.

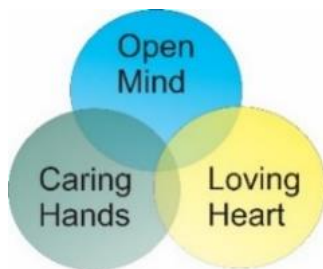


**Sunday, September 26, 10:00 a.m.**  
**“Aspirational Theology”**  
**Rabbi Nadia Siritsky**

Service Leader: Ruth Weber  
Music: Taffy Rook



Rabbi Dr. Nadia Siritsky, MSSW, BCC serves part-time as rabbi for Temple Bet Yam, while also teaching adjunct social work at Spalding University 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, as an interfaith hospital and hospice chaplain and social worker, and as a psychotherapist. She is passionate about interfaith work and helping people recognize that we are more alike than different.



# Programs for Children and Youth

Classes will follow a Harry Potter-themed social action curriculum aimed at ages 4 through middle school with fun activities and class projects working to help our local community. This program uses the Harry Potter stories of magic and wizardry as a springboard to immerse students in the idea that they have the power to make the world a better place. Areas of focus are hunger, the homeless, the environment, and our animal friends. We will work on learning and developing inner confidence, peer dynamics, and the importance of being a member of the community. The class will also learn about different types of religious celebrations throughout the year.



Classes will be held at 10 a.m. each Sunday and will alternate between virtual classes on Zoom and in-person classes in the UUFSA outdoor classroom. To join Zoom class sessions, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4750592013> after 9:30 a.m. This will take you to the UUFSA Sunday service, where you will be directed to the Children and Youth class room.



Our outdoor classroom has several wonderful new additions. In addition to our picnic table, we now have a fully reconstructed swing set, a shaded deck/stage area and a beautiful Friendship Bench build by Jim Alligood and decorated by our children.

We are so very excited to see all our children again, to welcome new friends and to witness the magic of their creativity as they work to make the world a better place!



For information about our program, contact Hogwarts Professor Kelly Sommer ([kelly.winton@gmail.com](mailto:kelly.winton@gmail.com))



## UU Adult Learning 2021-22

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on alternate Thursdays

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81217567074>

September 9..... Cris Johnston ..... Transgender Issues: One Parent's Journey

September 23 ..... Richard Lahey ..... How the Brain Changes God

### Cycles of American Political Thought

*Europe was created by history. America was created by philosophy.*

*Margaret Thatcher*

It is often said that Americans are doers, not thinkers; pragmatists, not true philosophers. America is an 'invented' country, the construct of men who consciously built political structure to govern a nation. Nevertheless, American institutions are rooted in and have developed from philosophical origins. Indeed, American political thought has circled around a liberal core for nearly 400 years.

Dr. Joseph Kobylka, Professor of Political Science at Southern Methodist University, will be our guide for the following selected topics.

October 7 ..... America—The Philosophical Experiment

October 21 ..... Burden of History and Theoretical Baggage

November 4 ..... The Road to Declaration of Independence

November 18 ..... John Adam - 'Constitutionalist'

December 2 ..... A Political Constitution

December 16 ..... A Philosophical Constitution

January 6 ..... The 'Genius' of Thomas Jefferson

January 20 ..... Jacksonian Democracy - 'The People'

February 3 ..... Thoreau: Iconoclastic Individualism

February 17 ..... Constitutionalizing of Slavery

March 3 ..... Lincoln's Reconstitution of America

March 17 ..... Equality in the Law and in Practice

April 7 ..... Social Darwinism and Economic Laissez-Faire

April 21 ..... Supreme Court and Laissez-Faire

May 5 ..... The Women's Movement and the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment

May 19 ..... FDR, the New Deal, and the Supreme Court

June 2 ..... The Reagan Revolution

June 16 ..... 20<sup>th</sup> century America: A World Power

June 30 ..... 21<sup>st</sup> century America: New Challenges and Global Homeostasis

**Surindar Paracer, Chair**

**Richard Lahey, Co- Chair**

# Great Decisions

## Third Mondays at 6:00 p.m.

Great Decisions is a national, grassroots foreign policy discussion program, hosted in St. Augustine by the UUFSA. All discussions are conducted on Zoom and are open to the public.

To receive the Zoom link and suggested background reading, contact Yosi ([jomcintire@bellsouth.net](mailto:jomcintire@bellsouth.net) 904 808 2717).

The remaining 2021 scheduled discussions are as follows:



**September 20:** Surindar Paracer will lead a discussion on **China and Africa**.

The Covid-19 crisis has put a massive strain on what was becoming a positive economic and political relationship between China and the continent of Africa. As Chinese President Xi Jinping's centerpiece "Belt and Road initiative"

continues to expand Chinese power, the response to the spread of Covid-19, as well as African governments' growing debt to China, has seen pushback. What are some of the growing economic and political issues between China and Africa?



**October 18:** Louis Post will lead a discussion on **Persian Gulf Security**.

The Persian Gulf remains tense as the rivalry between the regional powers of Saudi Arabia and Iran continues. Tensions escalated in early 2020 as the United States began to intervene in the Gulf, launching an airstrike that killed two Iranian military commanders. What are the historical influences that have led to these tensions? What role, if any, should the United States play? Is using military force a viable foreign policy option for 2021 and beyond?



**November 15:** Cynthia Thompson will lead a discussion on **Globalization**.

As the United States enters another election season, the merits and drawbacks of globalization are again under debate. With the passing of the Brexit vote, Donald Trump's America First doctrine, and now Joe Biden's "strategic competition" doctrine, globalization is being challenged. How will the United States and the world be affected by such policies? Is globalization really at an end, or in need of a refresh?

**Great Decisions will not meet in December. Discussions will begin again in January 2022.**



# A Thank You from Wildflower Healthcare

As many of you know, part of our monthly plate donations go to Wildflower Clinic in St. John's County. Wildflower provides free medical and dental care to low-income and impoverished members of our community.

We just received a kind letter from Wildflower thanking you all for your kind donations. In return, we thank the Wildflower Clinic for its service to the disadvantaged members of our community. We are happy to help. <https://wildflowerhealthcare.org/>

## ***UUFSA Board***



## **Program Team**

The Program Team meets the first Monday of every month, at 5:00 p.m. Currently, we are meeting via Zoom, but I hope/expect that will change.

For this year, Program Team meetings will be scheduled for:  
September 6, October 4, November 1, December 6, January 3  
February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, and June 6

## **Sunday Announcements**

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***Robin Mahonen, Chair***

# **The Story of How Our Old, Old Stage Curtains Got to Africa**

**Told by Ruth Weber**

Here's a great curtain story. Before the current ones were created (and I have a great story about fireproofing them, too), there were black theater curtains (the building had been a theater for a short time) but they were torn and tattered and pretty dusty, too. And so we decided to replace them.

The SOUL singers used to visit us each spring. Singers of United Lands, an organization based in Michigan, would invite four professional singers from different countries/continents; they'd make a CD in each other's languages plus English, then tour the US performing in various venues. They always came to St. Augustine at Easter, and various UU members would host them (the lucky ones got to stay at Mary K's), but also Shirley Bryce hosted, as did Peggy and Barbara. They would perform at the Fellowship as a Sunday service.

One year, we hosted a man named Branco from war-torn Uganda who ran an orphanage called Bitone, the Swahili word for "talent." He taught the children to sing and make music in the traditional way, thereby giving them 1) a means to make a living and 2) confidence in themselves. They also produced plays and shows for locals. There were plenty of orphans on account of the ongoing wars.

At the time, the black curtains were in a heap backstage and the new ones were being sewn. I asked Branco if he would like to have the old curtains and he said "YES, but how would I get them home?" I said I'd send them. He said "Great, but not until December which is when I will get back home from America."

And thereby began an adventure, because mailing a heavy package to Uganda was not a simple matter. The post office I went to was located in the St. Augustine Beach administrative offices parking lot – it was kind of a trailer. So the woman who worked there (I called her Nine-inch Nails) gave me the customs paperwork, and I went outside to fill it out. The post office was Christmastime-crowded and people were curious about this shipment. Plus the box I had packed them in was really heavy and some people helped me move it around.

OK here's the good part: When I was finally ready to mail them, the postage came to \$185!!! Well, people in line started handing me money! Everyone wanted to get those crappy old curtains to the orphans in Uganda. I think we ended up paying a part of it, but how wonderful that all those strangers wanted to help.

Several weeks later, I got word that the shipment had arrived. What was trash to us was treasure to them.

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



Facility improvements continued at the St. Johns Food Pantry this summer. New awnings at the front and back of the building give protection from sun and rain. New tables, shelves, and fresh paint give our working space a sparkle! Generous donations from community businesses and individuals enabled us to continue our increased level of food assistance. The UU Team is called the “A” team for our unflagging Activism throughout the past 18 months.

Thanks for all your support. 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 or go to [UUFSA.org](http://UUFSA.org) and scroll down the “HOME” page to the button labeled “Donate.” To check out the Food Pantry website go to [StJohnsFoodPantry.org](http://StJohnsFoodPantry.org).

If you would like to volunteer on Friday afternoons, please contact Chris Fosaaen at 904-673-5630 or [cfosaaen@gmail.com](mailto:cfosaaen@gmail.com).

**Chris and Cherie**



# Dining With Dignity

Our next opportunity to provide a nourishing meal for the homeless will be **Sunday, September 5, 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](mailto:Lkellough@comcast.net), 904-217-9837.



## 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.

**Maureen Herth, Co-Chair.....904-463-1032**  
Claudia Atkins .....386-717-6765  
Adele DelSavio .....315-529-6287  
Pat Hall .....914-787-9184

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





# September Calendar



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



## On the Lighter Side . . .

***Submit a short joke/piece of entertaining humor you'd like to share for consideration. Submit to Michael Read at [mickread@gmail.com](mailto:mickread@gmail.com).***

God was strolling through the Garden of Eden one day when He found Adam, slumped dejectedly against a tree. God said, "Dang, Adam. I gave you this lovely Garden to live in. Why are you so down in the dumps?" "I don't know, Lord," Adam said. "I'm just lonely." "I thought that was it," God said. "I've just been thinking about that. I'm going to make a woman for you." "Uh, what's a woman, Lord?" "A woman is a blessing I will bestow upon all men," God said. "She will be a creature of such beauty that not even the Angels could match it. She will adore you and comfort you." "Wow, cool," Adam said. Then, nervously, Adam said, "Uh, what'll it cost me?" "That will cost one eye and one foot." Adam said, "That's pretty steep. What can I get for just a rib?"

And so God took one of Adam's ribs and made Eve, the first woman. And all was good and God was pleased. A week later God once again saw Adam looking alone and dejected. And he said to Adam: "I have created a mate for you. Someone for you to share your life with. Someone to share your bed. So go forth and procreate with her and populate the earth." And Adam asked God what is it to procreate. So God explained it to Adam. Adam was instantly interested but said to God he was unsure where Eve was. So God said to Adam: "you will find Eve beyond the canyon." Adam asked God: "What is a canyon?" And God explained it to Adam. God continued: "Eve is beyond the canyon, above the forest." Adam said: "Lord, what is a forest?" And once again God explained it to Adam. God continued: "Eve is waiting for you beyond the canyon, above the forest in a cave." And Adam asked: "Lord, what is a cave?" And God told Adam about a cave. God said to Adam: "Eve is waiting for you, beyond the canyon, above the forest, in a cave. Go forth and procreate."

With that, Adam left God, rushed beyond the canyon, above the forest and into the cave. Five minutes later he returned, exasperated. "Lord God," he asked. "What's a headache?"