

# QUEST



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

**November 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 December 5, 2021 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 December issue are due by November 19.**

Don Brandes, Editor: [donaldbrandes@gmail.com](mailto:donaldbrandes@gmail.com)  
Thanks to Adele DelSavio for proofreading.

# From Your President



Dear Friends,

As I read about the brave Russian and Filipino Nobel Prize for Journalism winners, I was reminded how important it is to have a free press to support a Democratic society. The protection of a free press is enshrined in the US Constitution and without it a country cannot hope to have a free and just society. Mexico, Russia, the Philippines, Cuba, Somalia, Iraq, Syria – none have a free press and that contributes to appalling human rights abuses and murders of journalists.

I urge you to continue fighting for a free press wherever you see this freedom being undermined and support the organizations that are striving to help journalists, including the Committee to Protect Journalists, [www.cpg.org](http://www.cpg.org).

Now for something completely different! As I observed the happy attendees at our recent picnic, I was also reminded of the incredible volunteer work that was undertaken to make this happen. I'm constantly amazed at the small cadre of volunteers who step up to the plate every time to keep our Fellowship running efficiently: the Program Committee folks, the gardeners, the handy people, the financial experts, the Board, the committee members, the carers, the social justice fighters, the carpenters, the educators, the greeters, the environmental champions ... and the list goes on.

**BUT THE FELLOWSHIP STILL NEEDS YOU!** Very often, the volunteers we have are the same people wearing many hats. So, we need more volunteers to keep our programs running and to have more events like the picnic. Besides contributing to the present and future of the Fellowship, our volunteers always have fun and make life-long friends through their participation. Please contact any Board member and let us know how you would like to volunteer. Thank you.

In Peace,

*Renée Jones*

**UUFSA 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 through November. In-person services at the Fellowship will recommence on December 5. The starting time for services is 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 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.

November 7: Michael Read, [mickread@gmail.com](mailto:mickread@gmail.com)

November 14: Gina Jonas, [gina.jonas@gmail.com](mailto:gina.jonas@gmail.com)

November 21: Nana Royer, [nanaroyer@gmail.com](mailto:nanaroyer@gmail.com)

## Sunday, November 7, 10:00 a.m. “The Quest for Truth its Sacrament and Service its Prayer” Phillip Baber

Service Leader: Michael Read

Music: Taffy Rook

Story for All Ages

**Phillip Baber continues his line-by-line discussion of our Spoken Covenant.**

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, November 14, 10:00 a.m.**

## **“Empathy in a Sociopathic Society, Part Two”**

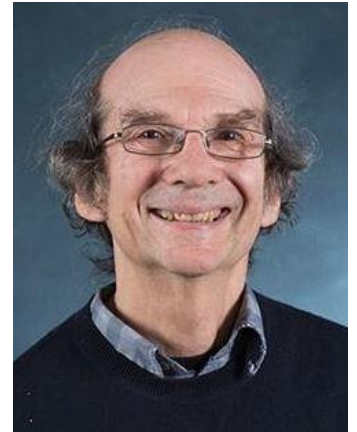
### **Charles Derber, Ph.D.**

Service Leader: Gina Jonas

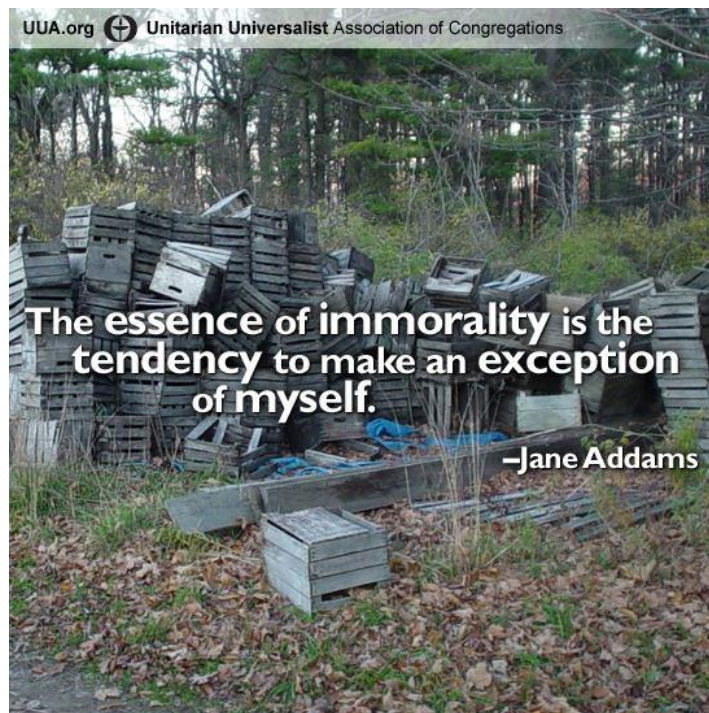
Music: Alex Richman

This I Believe: Kelly Shuford

The progressive forces of America – including our social justice movements and our progressive schools and spiritual organizations – often become mirrors of the very pathologies of power, ego and competition that they seek to overcome. Progressive classrooms, fellowships and left activist movements often find themselves struggling in their own organizations and within themselves to live up to their values of equality, empathy and compassion. This talk explains this paradox, shows how it has played out historically, and offers lessons from the classroom and social justice movements about how to more fully embody our own values of empathy and equality.



Charles Derber, Professor of Sociology at Boston College, is the author of 25 books, including the *Wilding of America*, *The Pursuit of Attention*, *Sociopathic Society*, and *Welcome to the Revolution* – translated into 12 languages. He is a public sociologist and life-long activist, who has also been a therapist. He writes about our competitive and exploitative economy and the everyday life challenges of living up to our values in capitalist societies. His talk will focus on how to embody more fully our values of empathy and equality in our own organizations and lives, a challenge facing our workplaces, our schools, and even our most progressive social movements.





# **Sunday, November 21, 10:00 a.m.**

## **“A Reverence for Life and Our Future”**

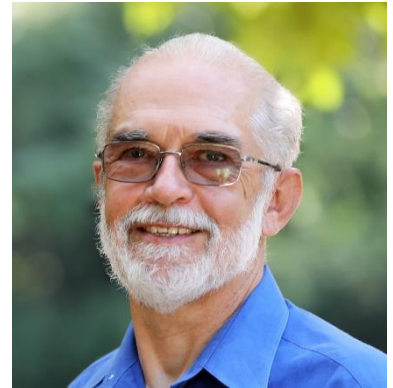
### **Gus Preschle**

Service Leader: Nana Royer

Music: Taffy Rook

Third Sunday Plate Collection: The St. Johns Food Pantry

The climate crisis, race and the pandemic intersect to threaten our well-being and the very future of our civilization. Fortunately, momentum is building around the world and here to meet these challenges head on. Gus Preschle, an environmental leader from the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Winston-Salem will talk about these challenges and what we as individuals and a congregation can do to help. Reversing these dangerous trends will assure a safer, healthier and more compassionate future for the ecosystem and the human race.



Gus Preschle is a retired public agency executive and certified Real Property Manager. He has been a humanist all his adult life and a UU for 14 years. At the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Winston-Salem, Gus has served on the environmental, care, ministry, strategic planning, safety and worship committees. He led the project to earn UU Green Sanctuary Certification in 2012 as well as the Hurricane Relief ministry in 2018 and 2019. Gus has also served in leadership positions in the North Carolina Sierra Club. He is also an avid hiker, bicyclist, and kayaker and loves to encourage children of all ages to enjoy and protect the earth. Gus currently lives in North Carolina with his wife of 52 years.

## **Sunday, November 28**

**No Sunday service will be held on Thanksgiving weekend.**

We encourage our spiritual family to enjoy time with their loved ones.

## **Program Team**

The UUFSA Program Team is pleased and grateful to announce that Margaret Nicholson has volunteered to coordinate the monthly "This I Believe" segments on the second Sunday of each month. "TIB" as we call it for short, is a brief 3-5 minute segment in which a member of our fellowship discusses their spiritual path with the rest of us. Sharing our diverse beliefs is an important part of being Unitarian Universalist. We hope you look forward to participating in this insightful program when Margaret reaches out to you.

The Program Team meets the first Monday of every month, at 5:00 p.m., still on Zoom. This month's meeting will be Monday, November 1.



# Programs for Children and Youth

**The UUFSA's Classes for Children and Youth now meet every week in the outdoor classroom located on the UUFSA's playground**

Classes follow a *Harry Potter-themed social action curriculum* aimed at ages 4 through middle school with fun activities and class projects that will help our local community.

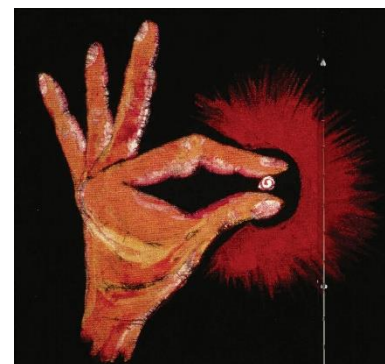


Our students' efforts to alleviate the Horcrux (societal curse in Harry Potter Speak) of Hunger were a huge success. The two scarecrows they designed, created and then raffled off at the October 16 UUFSA picnic raised \$156 for the Food Pantry! They are clearly making a difference in our community. The lucky raffle winners were Anni and Ean Howe, guests who were delighted to add their scarecrow to their Halloween decorations at home, and Jocelyn Breakwell, who donated her scarecrow to Nana Royer and the Community Garden.



Also, this past month, the children prepared a stunning reading of October's Story for All Ages, "The Everything Seed, A Story of Beginnings," that we hope many of you enjoyed.

The next focus of the children's curriculum will be self-confidence, self-esteem, positivity and listening to their inner voice. The importance of each of them to their family, friends and greater community, including our UU community, will be emphasized. So if you happen to see our children in the UUFSA's playground, please say "Hi" and let them know that you appreciate them. It would mean a lot to them.



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

# UU Adult Learning 2021-22

## Cycles of American Political Thought



6:00 – 8:00 p.m. on alternate Thursdays  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81217567074>

As Benjamin Franklin left the Constitutional Convention, he was reported to have been asked by a passerby what kind of government the delegates intended to propose, and Franklin replied: “*A republic, if you can keep it.*”

*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 Kobyłka, Professor of Political Science at Southern Methodist University will be our guide. Surindar Paracer will introduce this series and lead the discussions.

### **November 4**

#### **A Puritan Beginning: Expansion and Individualism**

### **November 18**

#### **The Revolutionary Context: The Road to the Declaration of Independence**

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).



**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.

## Picnic

On Saturday, October 16th, about thirty members and friends met in the UUFSA back yard and enjoyed each other's company and picnic goodies brought by all to share. It was a congenial atmosphere for a few hours during a pleasant afternoon. Barbara Battelle and Jim Alligood had built a deck with bench seating and Maureen and Jim Herth set up a large canopy for shade. The Children's' Program Halloween scarecrows were raffled off to benefit the Food Pantry, and the Green Team had a signature drive. Our social gathering opportunity is back – at least outdoors until our downstairs Social Hall can be reopened.



The Laheys brought this cake to welcome everyone back after a COVID-induced absence of more than a year.



# Dining With Dignity Sunday, November 7

Dining with Dignity is our once-a-month opportunity to feed the homeless downtown. A menu is sent out two weeks in advance, listing the items we need. We set up between 5:30 and 5:45 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month and serve at 6:00 p.m. If interested in participating, please contact Mary Kellough at [lkellough@comcast.net](mailto:lkellough@comcast.net).



## Highway Trash Pick-up

Palmer is leading a highway trash pickup on Wednesday, November 17 at 8am. It should be a nice fall day for a walk. RSVP to Palmer at [palshort@gmail.com](mailto:palshort@gmail.com)

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

Big Cheers go out to our creative children for the Great Scarecrow Raffle fundraiser at the picnic social. The raffle brought in \$156 for the food pantry. Thanks to the kids, their teachers, and the raffle participants for supporting the food pantry as we move toward the holidays.

To make a donation to the food pantry, please send a check to UUFSA, with 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 with the UU team on Friday afternoons, please contact co-chairs Chris Fosaaen at 904-673-5630, [cfoosaaen@gmail.com](mailto:cfoosaaen@gmail.com) or Cherie Dolgin at 904-461-1604, [cdolgin@bellsouth.net](mailto:cdolgin@bellsouth.net).



# Care Connection

Our Care Connection group provides short-term, non-medical support for members of the Fellowship during times of difficulty. With the help of the UUFSA Congregation, the Care Connection:



- Makes hospital or home visits
- Provides wellness-check phone calls or calls just to converse
- Runs errands
- Provides rides to appointments and church functions
- Delivers meals during times of adversity
- Offers financial assistance to members in need (all information is confidential)

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 join the Care Connection Team. Phone numbers are available in the Membership Directory. We accept and appreciate donations.

Rosemary Wheeler, Co-Chair  
Adele DelSavio

Cynthia McAuliffe

Maureen Herth, Co-Chair  
Anne Wilke

Pat Hall

Claudia Atkins  
Sharron Hines

# November Calendar



- 1 – Program Team 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 4 – Adult Learning, online 6:00 – 8:00 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 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- 12 – Food Pantry 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.
- 15 – Great Decisions online 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 17 – Highway Trash Pickup 8:00 a.m.
- 18 – Adult Learning, online 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 19 – Food Pantry 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.
- 19 – Deadline for December Quest contributions 5:00 p.m.
- 21 – Third Sunday Plate Collection - St. Johns Food Pantry
- 26 – 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).

### TEMPORARY RULES, 1941 RICHMOND GOLF CLUB

LONDON, ENGLAND

- 1 • Players are asked to collect the bomb and shrapnel splinters to save these causing damage to the mowing machines.
- 2 • In competitions, during gunfire or while bombs are falling, players may take shelter without penalty or ceasing play.
- 3 • The positions of known delayed action bombs are marked by red flags at a reasonable, but not guaranteed, safe distance therefrom.
- 4 • Shrapnel and/or bomb splinters on the Fairways, or in Bunkers, within a club's length of a ball, may be moved without penalty, and no penalty shall be incurred if a ball is thereby caused to move accidentally.
- 5 • A ball moved by enemy action may be replaced, or if lost, or destroyed, a ball may be dropped not nearer the hole without penalty.
- 6 • A ball lying in a crater may be lifted and dropped not nearer the hole, preserving the line to the hole, without penalty.
- 7 • A player whose stroke is affected by the simultaneous explosion of a bomb may play another ball. Penalty one stroke.

*FORTUNATELY, rules like these are not now needed in the game of golf. We hope that never again will they be. But, as a keep-sake of history, I thought you might like to have a copy.*

HARRY McGRATH, 143 State Street, Boston