

QUEST



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

December 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 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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Materials for the January issue are due by December 17.
Don Brandes, Editor: donaldbrandes@gmail.com
Thanks to Adele DelSavio for proofreading.

From Your President



Dear Friends,

I've been thinking a lot about empathy the last few months and how the true meaning of the word has been lost in many parts of society. Empathy – “understanding, being aware of, being sensitive to the feelings of another person” – not to be confused with sympathy – “the feeling that you care about and are sorry about someone else’s grief or misfortune.”

One of our recent Sunday service speakers, Charles Derber, gave a thought-provoking presentation on the Sociopathic Society and how the current brand of capitalism based on competitiveness, the pursuit of profits and greed no longer works for the common good. In short, the lack of empathy and compassion and the rise of anti-social values is destroying our society.

He finished his presentation by noting that he was experiencing enormous empathy from the members present and the program organizers. He urged us to keep on showing this compassion and love in our interactions with our fellow sentient beings.

Our UUFSA shows enormous empathy in its actions: caring for members who are in the hospital or housebound; listening quietly and closely to another’s words and feelings; showing right relations in our interactions with other members; being part of organizations that show compassion; organizing programs that bring us together in mutual love; using democratic consensus in decision-making; making sure everyone’s voice is heard; and being kind and inclusive to diverse groups in the community.

We can take pride in being “On the Side of Love” and showing everyone is welcome in our Fellowship. If you truly believe “Love is the doctrine of this congregation; the quest for truth its sacrament; and service its prayer,” then you have come to the right place.

In Peace,

Renée Jones

UUFSA President 2021-2022

renee@scgggroup1.com

267-514-5302



In-person Sunday services will resume on December 5. Services also will continue to be presented on Zoom. To join the Zoom meeting, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4750592013> after 9:30 a.m. on Sunday morning.

For safety's sake, we are asking that no one sing out loud during the services, except of course, our musician. We will not be having Social Hour in our downstairs hall until January 2.

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.

December 5: Chris McDermott, mcnoodle55@gmail.com

December 12: Gina Jonas, gina.jonas@gmail.com

December 19: Nana Royer, nanaroyer@gmail.com

December 26: Renée Jones, renee@scggroup1.com

Sunday, December 5, 10:00 a.m.

“And Service Its Prayer”

Phillip Baber

Service Leader: Chris McDermott

Music: Alex Richman

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, December 12, 10:00 a.m.
“Cycles of Light and Life”
(Holiday Music)

Bella Costa String Quartet

Service Leader: Gina Jonas
Music: Taffy Rook
This I Believe

Presenting musical selections from diverse genres that celebrate the passing of time and the changing of seasons, Bella Costa String Quartet is excited to explore with you:

- Sunrise by Coldplay
- A selection from Winter of The Four Seasons by Vivaldi
- Oblivion by Piazzolla
- On the Nature of Daylight by Max Richter
- Evening Prayer from Hansel and Gretel by Engelbert Humperdinck
- And more!

The Bella Costa String Quartet comprises principal members of the St. Augustine Orchestra: Patti Coleman and Rebecca Simpson, co-concertmasters; Heather Turvey, principal violist and Alexander Lynn, principal cellist. Formed in the summer of 2018, the Bella Costa String Quartet continued to play responsibly through the COVID-19 pandemic and is thrilled to be able to perform again!



The Bella Costa String Quartet

From left to right, Alexander Lynn, Heather Turvey, Rebecca Simpson and Patti Coleman

Sunday, December 19, 10:00 a.m.
“Lincolnvillle Museum and Cultural Center:
Past, Present and Future”
Regina Gayle Phillips, Executive Director

Service Leader: Margaret Nicholson

Music: Alex Richman

Third Sunday Plate Collection: Wildflower Clinic



Lincolnvillle Museum and Cultural Center is located on Martin Luther King Ave. in the former Excelsior School, St. Augustine's first Black public high school. The building's important role over the decades for the neighborhood and beyond will be discussed. The wide range of activities and events that take place, attracting an integrated audience, demonstrates its importance to our community. Plans for the current and future preservation of the almost 100-year-old structure will be shared, along with concepts for the up-coming centennial celebration.

Regina Gayle Phillips came to the museum as a volunteer in 2015 and helped to transform its exhibits and organizational structure through a series of grants and other programs. Phillips holds a journalism degree from the University of Florida and was managing editor of the Daytona Times Newspaper in her youth. She has transferred much of her previous business experience and writing skills into developing interpretive exhibits for the museum and establishing several income streams including a live-jazz series and a Living Legends annual awards program. Phillips has also been successful in building collaborations with other institutions in the area to establish the Resilience Project.



Sunday, December 26

“Joyful Holiday Traditions”

Renée Jones and Fellowship Guests

Service Leader: Renée Jones

Music: Taffy Rook

Green Minute

The “Holidays” are very important to most of us and there are many family and religious traditions that we remember from years gone by that evoke feelings of happiness and contentment. We continue family traditions through the years and finally pass them on to future generations.

Join us on Dec 26, “Boxing Day,” to share the traditions of our members from England, from Australia, from a Jewish family, from Down Under, from Europe and of course from America. The focus of this service will be the dining room table, the place where traditions are celebrated and enjoyed. We look forward to seeing you and sharing our Holiday traditions with you.



UUFSA Tea Time Cookie Exchange

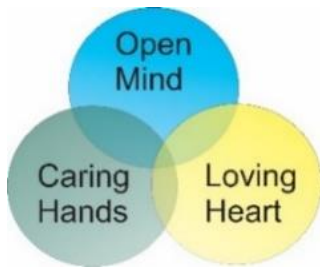
Saturday, December 4, 2:00 p.m.

Anyone who wants to bake cookies and take cookies (bring a dozen, take a dozen; bring two dozen, take two dozen etc.) come to the UUFSA Tea Time & Cookie Exchange in the UUFSA back yard. If weather is inclement, we will use the UUFSA front foyer.

Tea and other holiday punch will be provided. Please let Robin or Rosi know if you plan to participate.



Programs for Children and Youth



Our young people invite all UUFSA Members and Friends to a Winter Festival

WHEN: December 19, 2021 immediately following our Sunday service (about 11:00 AM). On Dec. 19, all our young people will be two weeks past their second COVID vaccination!!!!

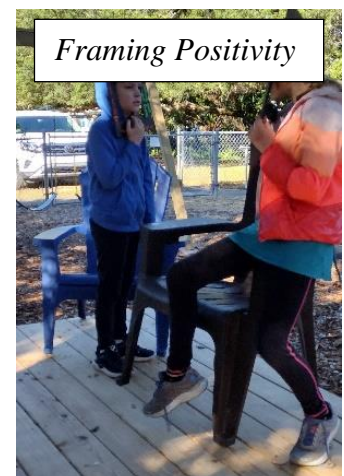
WHERE: The UUFSA's playground

WHAT: Come for Coffee, Hot chocolate, Sweets, Snacks, Conversation, Entertainment provided by our young people, and a Raffle of Yule Logs decorated by our children to benefit the UUFSA (\$1/ticket or \$5/6 tickets).

PRICE OF ADMISSION: A piece of warm clothing for the homeless to be distributed January 5 at Dining with Dignity (a pair of warm socks is always appropriate).

If you don't plan to attend the service in the Sanctuary, meet us outside on the playground at 11:00 a.m. **If you cannot join us in person, you may still purchase raffle tickets** by dropping a check or cash in an envelope (with your name) into our secure mail box, and we will add your tickets to the jar. **And you can still donate warm clothes for the homeless.** After Thanksgiving, a box will appear on the UUFSA's front porch for your donations.

Some photos of our classes provided by Professor Kelly Sommer
Halloween



Making Diya Lamps for Diwali, a festival celebrated throughout Southeast Asia

For information about our program, contact Hogwarts Professor Kelly Sommer (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 Kobylka, Professor of Political Science at Southern Methodist University, will be our guide. Surindar Paracer will introduce this series and lead the discussions.

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 th Amendment |
| May 19 | FDR, the New Deal, and the Supreme Court |
| June 2 | The Reagan Revolution |
| June 16 | 20 th century America: A World Power |
| June 30 | 21 st century America: New Challenges and Global Homeostasis |

Surindar Paracer, Chair
Richard Lahey, Co-Chair

St Augustine Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service

St Augustine Interfaith Community (SAIC) held its 11th annual Thanksgiving Service with the theme “Unity Through Gratitude” on Sunday, November 14. St. Photios Greek Orthodox National Shrine hosted the event, live-streaming from their garden. Margaret Nicholson, Liaison to SAIC, represented the UUFSA. The reading per the program was Litany of Gratitude for our Nation. The forty-one minute program was recorded and can be accessed via <https://www.facebook.com/SaintPhotios/videos/613380489851220>



Program Team

Program Team meets Monday, December 6, 5:00 p.m., via Zoom. Contact Robin Mahonen, UUFSA Program Team Chair, for more info. RRafael2@aol.com (304) 639-5538

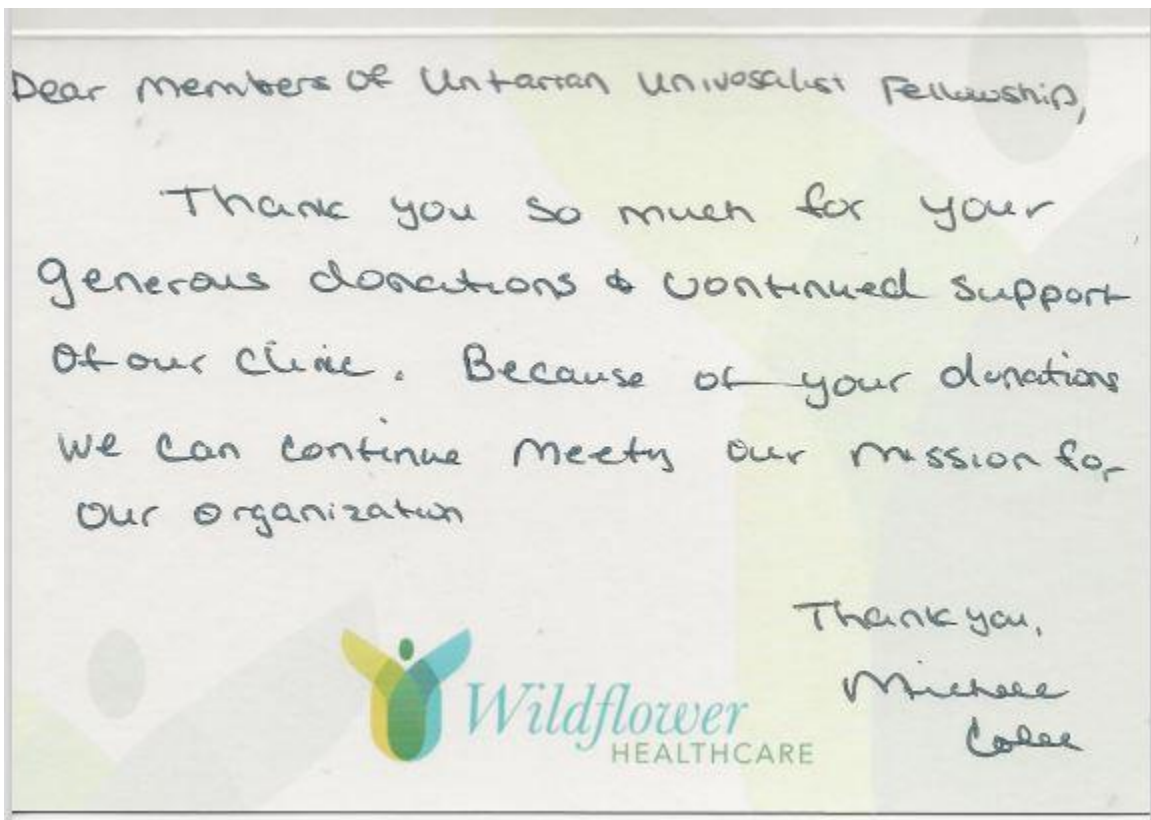
Green Team – This is your last chance!

You have until the last day of November to view the award-winning documentary ***The Condor and the Eagle***. This film screening event is an opportunity to reflect on our common purpose: to honor the Earth and its Indigenous communities. It plays every 15 minutes.

Go to: <https://event.webinarjam.com/register/204/n7yn7fr3>

If you would like to participate in a discussion via Zoom about the movie, please contact Nana Royer, nana@nrdep.net

Thanks from Wildflower Clinic



Highway Pickup November 17



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 904 808 2717).

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

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

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

The St. Johns Food Pantry is providing turkey dinners to as many clients as they are able at Thanksgiving this year. In St. John's County, there are 17 holiday food drives planned. All collected food items will go to local food pantries, including ours. We are blessed with generous neighborhoods and organizations that wish to help those in need of food.

If you would like to contribute to other holiday or everyday meals, we are asking for monetary donations this month. We have run out of room for storing food items – a good problem to have! But we can use cash donations to purchase special foods for Christmas dinners, items to complete these dinners, or just money to pay the bills.

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 the Food Pantry website at www.stjohnsfoodpantry.org and look for the donate button.

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

We sincerely thank you for your generosity over the past year and wish each of you happy holidays and a safe and healthy 2022.

**Cherie Dolgin and Chris Fosaaen
Co-Chairs**



Dining With Dignity Sunday, December 5

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.



December Calendar



- 2 – Adult Learning, online 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 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.
- 10 – Food Pantry 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.
- 13 – Board of Trustees meeting, online 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- 16 – Adult Learning, online 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 17 – Food Pantry 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.
- 17 – Deadline for January Quest contributions 5:00 p.m.
- 19 – Third Sunday Plate Collection – Wildflower Clinic
- 19 – Children and Youth Winter Festival
- 24 – Food Pantry 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.
- 31 – 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.

I'm a person who values diversity - except when anyone diverges from my opinion.

I went on a once-in-a-lifetime vacation. Never again!

What did the lawyer wear to court? A lawsuit!

My doctor told me I should exercise more to improve my memory. He declared that just a short, 10-minute walk each day does wonders. So the very next day I set out for a 10-minute walk. Sixty minutes later I finally found my way back.

What's the most terrifying word in nuclear physics? "Oops!"

I always wear one white sock and one black sock. When it gets so I can't tell them apart, I know it's time to change them.

I decided to give up scientific research when I realized that my constants weren't and my variables wouldn't.

An English professor wrote the words, "woman without her man is nothing" on the blackboard and directed the students to punctuate it correctly. The male students wrote: "Woman, without her man, is nothing." The female students wrote: "Woman! Without her, man is nothing."

Every woman's dream is that a man will take her in his arms, throw her into bed and clean the house while she sleeps.