

QUEST



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

March 2022

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

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

UUFSA IS NOW OPEN FOR IN-PERSON SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:00 A.M.

Services also will continue to be presented on Zoom at
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4750592013>

A Sunday children’s program also is available.

Recordings of most past presentations are available on our website.

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Materials for the April issue are due by March 18.

Don Brandes, Editor: donaldbrandes@gmail.com

Thanks to Adele DelSavio for proofreading.

From Your President



Dear Members and Friends,

I write in the sad wake of Renee Jones needing to resign as our president after the death of her beloved husband, Tony DeCrosta. We all feel deep appreciation for Renee's service to our community, and extend our heartfelt wishes for her to thrive as she moves to Philadelphia to be near her son. I will miss Renee's gift of caring for others and her commitment to our community.

That community is each and every unique and amazing one of you. United by the spiritual and ethical values of our UU tradition, we undertake our mission: to become more human and create a more humane world. Let's keep discovering how to live our values as we learn, work, and play together.

Toward this aim, I hope to engage with you in conversation – listening to each other and thinking through our desires and challenges together. I hope to grow with you as we get to know each other better. Please know that I welcome your ideas and visions for putting our common purpose into action.

I believe that each of you has a valuable contribution to make and fervently hope you'll walk through the door of opportunity this fellowship offers—to learn, serve, and grow in compassion and wonder. I've already found working with others, in common purpose, to be tremendously enriching and joyful.

Stay tuned! In the coming weeks and months, the Board will send e-blasts announcing opportunities for you to engage in our community. Please contact me with any questions, or a desire for encouraging words! It will be my heartfelt pleasure to lend an ear!

In the warmth of fellowship,

Gina Jonas
UUFSA President
904-679-4610
gina.jonas@gmail.com



Sunday services are presented in-person in the Fellowship and 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, and for everyone present to be vaccinated and wear a mask.

Sunday Announcements

If you have a brief, UUFSFA-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 UUFSFA events will be announced.

March 6: Nana Royer, nanaroyer@gmail.com

March 13: Robin Mahonen, RRafael2@aol.com

March 20: Gina Jonas, gina.jonas@gmail.com

March 27: Margaret Nicholson, send2me@bellsouth.net

Sunday, March 6, 10:00 a.m. “To the End that All that Lives May Grow Toward Harmony with the Divine” Pastor Phillip Baber

Service Leader: Nana Royer

Music: Taffy Rook

Story for All Ages

Phillip Baber continues his exploration of the words and meaning of our Spoken Covenant

Phillip Baber speaks twice a month at UUFSFA. He also 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 13, 10:00 a.m.
“Sex Trafficked to Liberation”

Ellen Mennell

Service Leader: Robin Mahonen

Music: Alex Richman

This I Believe: Jocelyn Breakwell



Ellen’s journey through life’s hardship has been the catalyst for the work she’s currently doing. As a child, Ellen experienced years of physical, mental, emotional, sexual, and spiritual trauma. This left her devastated as she battled her own demons surrounding mental health, addictions, shame, and fear to name a few. On more than one occasion, she attempted suicide to escape from the horrific abuse she was suffering. But the universe had another plan. Through a spiritual awakening along with several years of intense therapy, Ellen found herself transformed from the inside out. She eventually turned to helping others trapped in life threatening situations to experience a similar freedom. For the last 16 years, Ellen has been living overseas in 37 nations working in social justice, in which the focus is around poverty, orphans, human rights,

inequality, education, and sex trafficking. Ellen believes her life medicine is to bring hope, healing, and compassion to the world around her.

Sunday, March 20, 10:00 a.m.
“Thus Do We Covenant with One Another”
Pastor Phillip Baber

Service Leader: Gina Jonas

Music: Taffy Rook

Third Sunday Plate Donation: Wildflower Clinic

Phillip Baber continues his exploration of the words and meaning of our Spoken Covenant

Sunday, March 27, 10:00 a.m.
“The Importance of Women as Legislators”
Jaime Perkins

Service Leader: Margaret Nicholson
Music: Alex Richman
Green Minute

No further information is available at the time of publication. The UUFSA website will be updated when additional information becomes available and a notice will be distributed prior to the service.

Sign up to Host Sunday Coffee Hour

We eventually will open the downstairs recreation hall for coffee and light snacks when the threat of COVID recedes. Although the date is still uncertain, we need to be prepared when the time comes. You will want to volunteer to host a post-service Sunday coffee hour in Fellowship Hall as this popular weekly get-together resumes. Please let us know about your potential availability. You will not be committing to a particular date at this time.

Coffee hosts work in pairs and have these duties:

Preparation

- Make coffee in large percolator.
- Boil water for tea.
- Bring cookies and fruit (but not enough food to make a meal).
- Bring half and half.
- Arrange cups, snacks, etc. on tables.

After coffee hour

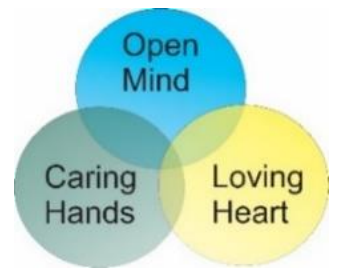
- Wash out percolator.
- Wash dishes (dishwasher available).
- Wipe table tops.
- Lightly sweep floor.
- Take out trash and recycling and move cans into position for Monday’s pickup.
- Turn off all the lights in the building.
- Check and lock front and back doors.

To volunteer to host coffee hour, contact Rosi Angeli by calling or texting 904-315-4284.

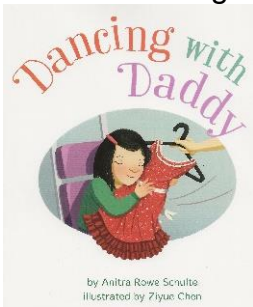
Program Team Meeting **March 7, 5:00 p.m.**

Please remember that the Program Team meets on the first Monday of each month. Contact Robin Mahonen, UUFSA Program Team Chair, for more information. RRrafael2@aol.com (304) 639-5538

Programs for Children and Youth



The weather and COVID presented challenges this past month, so several classes were virtual. Nevertheless, our children joined us to continue discussions of how best to include in their activities people with different physical abilities and to celebrate the Chinese Lunar New Year. They also read to the congregation the story ***Dancing with Daddy***, which reminded all of us that no matter what physical limitations a person may have, everyone wishes to be included.



When we were able to meet in-person, students explored lip-reading, sign language and braille. We thank the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind for sending very useful study materials. Students also explored their own physical abilities in a **special MOVEMENT CLASS** presented by **Priscilla Gulliver**. **Thank-you Priscilla!**



Top row left: Stella and Grace practice lip reading.

Top row right and bottom row: students practice communicating with sign language.

Our students love magic, so after wrapping up their studies of inclusion, they explored one of the magical, invisible forces in the universe --- **MAGNETISM**. They had great fun and even made **magnetic slime!**



We continue to search for a Lead Teacher for our Program for Children and Youth. Please see our ad elsewhere in the Quest. If you know people who might be interested, please ask them to contact Jindy Gelow (jindyms@yahoo.com) or Barbara Battelle (Battellebarbara@gmail.com). In the meantime, we will be calling on members of the Fellowship to share their knowledge and many gifts with our children. Thank-you to those members who have already volunteered: **Priscilla Gulliver, Jim and Maureen Herth, Rosemary Comtois and Robin and Eddie Mahonen.**



Wanted

Lead Teacher Program for Children and Youth Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine

Beginning Immediately

Position: Lead Teacher in our Program for Children and Youth

Where: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine (UUFSA)
2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, Florida 32080

When: Present lessons Sundays 9:45 AM – 11:45 AM
Contract will extend through June 30, 2022

Compensation: \$70/week. Includes compensation for 2 hours of preparation time plus 2 hours of class time.

Brief Job Description: Prepare and present lessons based on Unitarian Universalist curricula for school-aged children.

Qualifications:

- Knowledge of (or a willingness to learn about) Unitarian Universalism and a respect for our values and traditions.
- Experience or training in early childhood development is highly desirable but not required.

To learn more about our Fellowship and our denomination check out our website (UUFSA.org) and the website of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA.org).

To apply:

Submit a resume describing your educational background, work experience and contacts for three professional references to Barbara Battelle (uufsa1bb@gmail.com) with “Children/Youth Teacher” in the subject line.

For more information, call Barbara Battelle 904-540-3720.



UU Adult Learning, March 2022

Cycles of American Political Thought

6:00 – 7:30 p.m. on alternate Thursdays

Meeting in Person at the Fellowship and on Zoom

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

March 3

Equality in Law and in Practice

Defeating the Reconstruction Acts and returning to states the autonomy to define the rights of their new ‘citizens’.

March 17

Social Darwinism and Economic Laissez-Faire

Defense of private property and a Laissez-Faire interpretation of liberalism

Dr. Joseph Kobyłka, Professor of Political Science at Southern Methodist University, will be our guide.

April 7 Supreme Court and Laissez-Faire

April 21 Hamiltonian Means to Jeffersonian Ends

May 5..... The Women’s Movement and the 19th Amendment

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

June 2..... The Reagan Revolution

June 16..... 20th century America: A World Power

June 30..... 21st century America: New Challenges and Global Homeostasis

Surindar Paracer, Chair
Richard Lahey, Co-Chair

Volunteer Opportunities!

The UUFSA is a lay-led, volunteer-fueled organization. Thanks to our own efforts we create a vibrant, caring community!

Volunteering at the UU gives you the chance to meet others who care passionately about engaging the world, growing spiritually and ethically, having fun, and making meaning.

As the UUFSA gradually reopens and life gets more normal, the *Quest* will feature our various committees. Please check out the ones that speak to your particular concerns, talents, and visions!

The Program Team Needs You!

This is a standing committee with a pivotal task. Its members have the enjoyable and interesting job of choosing and enlisting speakers for our Sunday services. As a lay-led fellowship, these speakers deliver our message on topics that connect us ever more deeply to our guiding principles, and nourish our spiritual and ethical growth.

Members also serve as Service Leaders and/or as Schedulers.

1. Service Leaders facilitate the Sunday service. This role offers a wonderful opportunity to grow and to learn about the UU, and about our fellowship community and its relation to the larger world.

We have an Order of Service Script to help guide you. Members of the team will gladly support and encourage you as you learn the ropes. We meet monthly for about an hour (currently on Zoom). Why not attend one of our meetings to see what we're up to!

2. Schedulers gather the information needed to announce the month's services in the *Quest*. Naturally, there's a checklist to help you!

Non-team members are also welcome to act as Service Leaders.

Please contact Robin Mahonen, Rrafael2@aol.com, our team chair, for more information and with any questions.



Great Decisions

Monday, March 21, 6:00 p.m.

The discussion will be on Zoom at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/216526385?pwd=Q1BBS2d3RW1wL1ZrZUIqTWRwajZ2dz09>

Password 831270

Great Decisions hopes to serve as a catalyst for developing awareness, understanding, and informed opinion on U.S. foreign policy and global issues. Great Decisions meets every third Monday at 6:00 p.m. All are welcome.

For more information or to be added to the Great Decisions electronic mailing list, contact Yosi (jomcintire@bellsouth.net or 904-808-2717)

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 Maureen Herth, Co-Chair
Claudia Atkins Adele DelSavio Cynthia McAuliffe
Anne Wilke Pat Hall Sharron Hines

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



The UU Food Pantry team gets together every Friday to distribute groceries at the Saint Johns Food Pantry. We pack and give out over 100 bags per day to people in our community needing food assistance. UUFSA is among the many generous donors providing the food and volunteer labor which enable the success of the pantry. Thank you for all your help.

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 and scroll down the "HOME" page to the button labeled "Donate." To check out the Food Pantry website go to StJohnsFoodPantry.org.

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

Chris Fosaaen, Chair



Dining With Dignity Sunday, March 6

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.



March Calendar



- 3 – Adult Learning, in person and online 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- 4 – Food Pantry 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.
- 6 – Food drop-off for Dining with Dignity 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- 6 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 7 – Program Team 5:00 p.m.
- 11 – Food Pantry 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.
- 14 – Board of Trustees meeting, online 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- 17 – Adult Learning, in person and online 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- 18 – Food Pantry 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.
- 18 – Deadline for April Quest contributions 5:00 p.m.
- 20 – Third Sunday plate collection – Wildflower Clinic
- 21 – Great Decisions 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 25 – 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.

Cartoonist in a bar: "I can only write a good joke when I'm tipsy."
Bartender: "Yeah? Then tip me good."

We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads.

An Englishman, a Frenchman, a Spaniard and a German are walking down the street together. A juggler is performing on the street but there are so many people that the four men can't see the juggler. So the juggler goes on top of a platform and asks: "Can you see me now?" The four men answer: "Yes." "Oui." "Si." "Ja."

How many programmers does it take to change a light bulb? None, it's a hardware problem.

The Governor said he'd lock up anyone who proposed a lockdown.

An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen. The two gentlemen were talking, and one said: "Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great. I would recommend it very highly."

The other man said: "What's the name of the restaurant?"

The first man thought and thought and finally said: "What's the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know, the one that's red and has thorns."

"Do you mean a rose?"

"Yes, that's the one," replied the man. He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, "Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?"

Beyond our Congregation



UUA General Assembly

June 22 - 26, 2022 online or in-person in Portland, Oregon.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MULTIPLATFORM / PORTLAND • 2022

General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles.

In 2022, we will have the option of meeting online or in-person! For those who enjoyed the convenience and accessibility of remote participation, General Assembly will continue to offer virtual attendance with robust programming and enhanced delegate discussion tools. For those who have been missing the physical experience, GA 2022 will also feature face-to-face interactions, hanging banners, an exhibit hall, meals with friends old and new, local site attractions, and more!

All GA attendees and exhibitors are required to provide proof of Covid-19 Vaccination for in-person attendance at General Assembly. In addition, masking is required and physically distanced seating options will be reserved in our meeting spaces. Currently, free Covid-19 testing is available Monday to Saturday from 8 am - 3 pm, by appointment or walk-in, at a testing site in front of the Oregon Convention Center. Appointments may be [scheduled online](#).

Registration for General Assembly 2022 in-person is now open. Financial support for registration as well as a payment plan is available. General Assembly 2022 will be a multiplatform event, with registration options for in-person and/or virtual participation. Registration for virtual participation will open March 1.

[Register now!](#)