

# QUEST



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

April 2022

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/>

**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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## Board of Trustees 2021 - 2022

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The *Quest* is published monthly September through July.

**Materials for the May issue are due by April 22.**

Don Brandes, Editor: [donaldbrandes@gmail.com](mailto:donaldbrandes@gmail.com)

Thanks to Adele DelSavio for proofreading.

# From Your President



Dear Members and Friends,

Compassion and conscience move me to begin this month's letter with the war in Ukraine. As we struggle with our feelings, we embrace any possibility to respond. To help our community respond, we gathered and distributed a list of humanitarian agencies to which you could donate. And I have represented our community at an Interfaith service in support of Ukraine and against the war.

In stark contrast to this calamitous event, I now speak of the joys of hope and achievement. Hope blossomed with the arrival of your pledges – they enable us to go forward in community! Since they did not, however, fund all the programs we envision, keep your eyes peeled for eblasts about our upcoming fundraisers. First off, Raffle-a-Sermon: Pastor Phillip Baber will deliver the winning topic!

I also rejoice in sharing some achievements of our Board and Program Team. Choosing the theme, "Side with Love," we sought to deepen our understanding of love, the heart of our community. While we acknowledge its centrality, reciting it weekly in our Spoken Covenant – Love is the doctrine of our congregation—there's also the risk of mindless repetition. With Pastor Phillip Baber's explication, and the many speakers who examined this topic, we helped avoid this danger. Continuing to delve into love's mysteries, to search out its meaning, we maintain our living tradition!

For me, the lifeblood of that tradition flows in good order when we act thoughtfully, with respect and love toward one another. In hopes of helping us to foster this behavior, the UUFSA Board updated our member relations policies. We warmly invite you to review the full suite: "Good Relations between Board Members," "Good Relations between the Board and the Fellowship," "Good Relations between Members of the UUFSA," and "Good Relations: Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation." You'll find them on pages 12 - 14 of this *Quest* and posted on our bulletin board. We know full well these are not magic bullets; rather, we believe that keeping them in awareness encourages a sincere effort, on each of our parts, to grow toward beloved community.

Finally, I have the joy of announcing we will reopen downstairs for Coffee Hour on April 3rd!

In the warmth of fellowship,

**Gina Jonas**  
***UUFSA President***  
**904-679-4610**  
**[gina.jonas@gmail.com](mailto: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, 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.

April 3: Nana Royer, [nanaroyer@gmail.com](mailto:nanaroyer@gmail.com)

April 10: Margaret Nicholson, [send2me@bellsouth.net](mailto:send2me@bellsouth.net)

April 17: Michael Read, [mickread@gmail.com](mailto:mickread@gmail.com)

April 24: Gina Jonas, [gina.jonas@gmail.com](mailto:gina.jonas@gmail.com)

## **Sunday, April 3, 10:00 a.m.** **“Skynet, the Devil, and Gingerbread Men”** **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 UUFSA. 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, April 10, 10:00 a.m.**  
**“League of Women Voters – The Basics”**  
**Lanelle Phillmon**

Service Leader: Margaret Nicholson

Music: Alex Richman

This I Believe: Jon Miller



The League of Women Voters' local president will discuss League history, priorities, and how community members can get involved in issues that impact their community and our state.

Lanelle Phillmon is a native Floridian, a veteran and local activist. Immediately after graduating high school in Sneads, FL, she enlisted in the Navy and served for 27 ½ years living in Puerto Rico, Virginia, Illinois, Iceland, Greece, Diego Garcia, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, New Orleans and Jacksonville and making port visits throughout the Mediterranean, Caribbean, and Gulf.

After retirement as a Command Master Chief, she worked for 18 months volunteering with local organizations that serve unsheltered persons while completing her MBA. Since 2012, she has had the honor of working with veterans and those experiencing homelessness in and around Jacksonville.

Lanelle is the current League of Women Voters Jacksonville First Coast President; League of Women Voters of Florida Immigration Action Committee Co-Chair and Voter Services Committee member; Northeast Florida ACLU board member; 904Ward facilitator, and NAACP Jacksonville Chapter Armed Services and Veterans Affairs Committee member, and she works with local and national organizations to effect positive change for all people. Much of her energy is focused on voter registration; voting rights restoration; justice reform, and anti-racism work.

**Sunday, April 17, 10:00 a.m.**  
**“Easter”**  
**Pastor Phillip Baber**

Service Leader: Michael Read

Music: Taffy Rook

Third Sunday Plate Donation: Home Again St. Johns

# Sunday, April 24, 10:00 a.m.

## “The Most Important Title in American Democracy”

### Chris Hand

Service Leader: Gina Jonas  
Music: Alex Richman  
Green Minute

Each of us holds the most important title in American democracy: Citizen. Yet most Americans think we are powerless to make government respond. A 2020 Pew Charitable Trusts survey found that nearly 75% of Americans believe most elected officials don't care what people like us think. But we can make them listen – if we embrace our rights and responsibilities as citizens, and use the skills of effective citizenship to make government work for us.

Chris is a Jacksonville native with a long, illustrious record of public, civic, and legal service. As the head of Hand Law, he provides counsel and litigation advocacy to help businesses, organizations, and individuals solve challenges with government.



From 2011 to 2015, Chris was Chief of Staff at the City of Jacksonville – the largest city by area in the contiguous U.S., 12<sup>th</sup> largest by population, and the most populous city in Florida. He later authored the 50th Anniversary update to the chronicle of Jacksonville's historic consolidation: *A Quiet Revolution – the Consolidation of Jacksonville-Duval County and the Dynamics of Urban Political Reform*.

From 1996 to 2000, Chris served as speechwriter, Senate press secretary and campaign press secretary for U.S. Senator and former Governor Bob Graham. In 2016, they co-authored *America, the Owner's Manual: You Can Fight City Hall – and Win*. It's a guide to help Americans flex their citizenship muscles to make government respond.

## Raffle-A-Sermon

Do you ever find yourself thinking 'I wish Pastor Baber would talk about...' or 'I would love to hear Pastor Baber's thoughts on ...' Well, here's your chance to get the sermon you have always wanted. Enter our first ever **Raffle-A-Sermon!**

Each entry is \$10. Submit your idea for a sermon and your entry fee in an envelope placed in the collection basket or mail it to the UUFSA, 2487 A1A South, St. Augustine FL 32080. Be sure to indicate Raffle-A-Sermon on the memo line of your check. Entries must be received by Sunday, April 10. The drawing will be held on Sunday, April 17. The winning sermon will be delivered on Sunday, May 15. You may enter as many times as you wish. Each entry is \$10. Please make sure all entries reflect our UU values.

If you have questions, ask Gina Jonas ([gina.jonas@gmail.com](mailto:gina.jonas@gmail.com)) or Maureen Herth ([jmInherth@aol.com](mailto:jmInherth@aol.com))

## Coffee Hour Resumes

The UUFSA coffee hour held after Sunday service will resume in our downstairs Social Hall on April 3rd.

Coffee, tea, and simple snacks like cookies and fruit will be available.

To host a Sunday coffee hour, please sign up at the calendar downstairs or contact Hospitality Team Chair, Rosi Angeli for more information by calling or texting 904-315-4284.



## Program Team Meeting April 4, 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. [RRafael2@aol.com](mailto:RRafael2@aol.com) 304-639-5538

## Volunteer Opportunities!

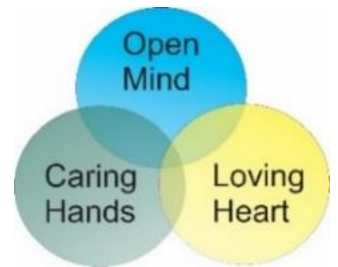
The UUFSA is a lay-led, volunteer-fueled organization. Thanks to our own efforts we create a vibrant, caring community!

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!

# Programs for Children and Youth

The children have spent most of their time during this past month preparing for a Spring Festival to which everyone is invited!



**Mark your calendars!!**

You are invited to a  
**SPRING FESTIVAL**

Hosted by the UUFSA's **Enchanting Activists** (our kids)

**SUNDAY, MARCH 27**

Immediately following Sunday Service in UUFSA's Backyard

Come see our new **butterfly/pollinator garden** and stay for:

- + Coffee and Snacks
- + **Free seedlings for your garden** including Native Milkweed and Information about Native Milkweed
- + Entertainment
- + **A raffle** for hand-crafted art (**\$5 for 6 tickets**) Including Flower arrangements, Art from Junk and more

*All proceed will go toward the purchase of a Yaupon Holly for the UU's memorial walkway.*

*Come to have fun and to support our Enchanting Activists, the environment and the UUFSA.*

**Our children gratefully acknowledge the support of Mary Kellough, Jim and Maureen Herth and Rosemary Comtois.**



**UU Adult Learning, April 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>  
Pass code: 011244

**April 7**

**Working-Class Socialism**  
**Hamiltonian Means for Jeffersonian Ends**

**April 21**

**FDR, the new Deal, and the Supreme Court**  
**The Racial Revolution**

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

May 5.....Egalitarianism and Freedom  
May 19.....The Reagan Revolution  
June 2.....Cycles of American Political Conversations  
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

## Monday, April 18, 6:00 p.m.

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](mailto: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

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



The UUFSA Food Pantry team serves families every Friday from 1:00 to 4:00 at the Saint Johns Food Pantry. The pantry gives out 100 bags each 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](http://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](mailto:cfosaaen@gmail.com)

***Chris Fosaaen, Chair***



## **Dining With Dignity Sunday, April 3**

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).



# April Calendar



- 1 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 3 – Food drop-off for Dining with Dignity 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- 3 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 4 – Program Team 5:00 p.m.
- 7 – Adult Learning, in person and online 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- 8 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 11 – Board of Trustees meeting, online 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- 15 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 17 – Third Sunday plate collection – Home Again St. Johns
- 18 – Great Decisions 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 21 – Adult Learning, in person and online 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- 22 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 22 – Deadline for April Quest contributions 5:00 p.m.
- 29 – 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. Submit to Michael Read at [mickread@gmail.com](mailto:mickread@gmail.com).*

Instead of a sign that says “Do not disturb” I need one that says “Already disturbed, proceed with caution.”

“That’s a great picture of you” means “You look nothing like that.”

If you can’t think of a word, say: “I forgot the English word for it.” That way people will think you’re bilingual.

Drive carefully ... It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker.

Common sense is like a deodorant. The people who need it most never use it.

My son wanted to know what it's like to be married. I told him to leave me alone and when he did, I asked him why he was ignoring me.

I threw a boomerang a few years ago. I’m still waiting for it to come back.

Morris, an 82-year-old man, went to the doctor to get a physical. A few days later, the doctor saw Morris happily walking down the street with a gorgeous young woman on his arm. A couple of days later, the doctor spoke to Morris and said: “You're really doing great, aren't you?” Morris replied: “Just doing what you said, Doc. Get a hot mamma and be cheerful.” The doctor responded: “I didn't say that. I said you've got a heart murmur; be careful.”

# **Your Board at Work: Good Relations**

**After a months-long review and approval process and consideration of Member feedback, we are excited to share with you these updated Good Relations policies. It is our hope that they help guide us as we work, learn, and grow together.**

**Thank you for your support,  
UUFSA Board of Trustees**

## **A.1. Good Relations between Board Members**

We the members of the UUFSA Board intend to:

- Work together to enact Unitarian Universalism’s Seven Principles and the UUFSA’s Mission Statement as the foundation for our Fellowship.
- Fulfill our duties, within the framework of our By-laws and Principles, and attend Board meetings on time and prepared.
- Utilize the democratic process to reach Board decisions; then, speak with one voice regarding those decisions.
- Express ourselves clearly, respectfully, honestly, and as concisely (as possible) in discussion—valuing loving relationship more highly than “being right.”
- Let others have their say, giving time to conclude their remarks, without interruption or criticism.
- Welcome dissent and “agree to disagree” where necessary.
- Care for each other and take responsibility for the impact of our actions on others; and allow for human fallibility.
- Address differences of opinion not resolvable by direct communication through a conflict resolution process.
- Identify and respect confidential communications

### **A.1.A. Good Relations between Board Members and the Fellowship**

We, the UUFSA Board, intend to:

- Serve our congregation with integrity and commitment.
- Dedicate ourselves to helping our Fellowship enact Unitarian Universalism’s Seven Principles and the UUFSA’s Mission Statement.

- Ensure that all Board communications are inclusive, timely, transparent, and polite.
- Listen deeply to the congregation and be appreciative of information shared with us.
- Respect confidentiality where appropriate (as in personal matters).
- Speak to the Fellowship with one voice.
- Treat our time on the Board as an opportunity to contribute an important service to our Fellowship.

## **B.2. Good Relations between Members of the UUFSA**

We the members of the UUFSA intend to:

- Work together to enact Unitarian Universalism's Seven Principles and the UUFSA's Mission Statement as the foundation for our Fellowship.
- Share the duties and responsibilities needed to maintain the well-being of our Fellowship.
- Offer our unique gifts, talents, time, energy, and financial support so that we may flourish as a community.
- Respect the views and opinions of others, agreeing to disagree when necessary.
- Participate in decision-making in a collaborative manner, within a democratic framework.
- Care for each other through times of ill-health and sorrow; celebrate in community whenever possible.
- Continue to learn how to communicate with kindness and compassion, recognizing that our relationships are the bedrock of a vital community.
- Invite and welcome others who seek spiritual and ethical growth, who desire an atmosphere of fellowship in which to create and enjoy friendship as we grow in community.

### **B.3. Good Relations: Conflict Resolution & Reconciliation**

Here, “Conflict” refers to a situation in which those involved are unable to resolve difficulties on their own. It refers to:

disagreements between individuals that can’t be resolved by “agreeing to disagree,” where emotions have escalated and the parties are not listening to, or trying to understand, each other.

“Reconciliation” refers to:

the desire to restore connection in situations in which one or a number of members find an individual’s behavior distressful or disrespectful, or their language abrasive or abusive. It involves an attempt to heal, to bring people back together, and, to prevent a felt need to leave the Fellowship.

For help in both situations, as soon as possible, either

- 1) Find a person or persons in which both parties have trust and confidence with whom to discuss your concerns.
- 2) Contact a member of the Board. The Board will meet in a confidential session to consider the particulars of the situation and a way to move toward resolution/reconciliation. This may take the form of mediation. If so, the Board will find one or more persons who have experience or training in communicating with people in such circumstances.

Engaging in conflict resolution and reconciliation is voluntary but encouraged as they are in deep accord with our values. Whether we’re bringing two parties together or addressing an individual, let’s call upon our “Good Relations” policies. These are expressions of our deepest values—rooted in our Mission Statement, Seven Principles, and Spoken Covenant. Any mediated interaction will be an effort to use these as guides to our behavior and personal growth. It will stress the importance of maintaining respect and consideration as the bedrock of our community.

The Board will act in situations that cannot be resolved or reconciled as described above.

# 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!](#)