

QUEST



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

May 2022

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

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

Sunday services are presented in-person and online at 10:00 a.m.

Click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4750592013> after 9:30 a.m.

A Sunday children's program also is available.

Recordings of most past presentations are available on our website.

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The *Quest* is published monthly September through July.

Materials for the June issue are due by May 20.

Don Brandes, Editor: donaldbrandes@gmail.com

Thanks to Adele DelSavio for proofreading.

From Your President



Dear Members and Friends,

Is there such a thing as a “calling” beyond the domain of a career? Might not the practice of a calling also provide a special lens for performing daily, short-term acts? Since most of our acts fall into this realm, we’d have far more chances to cultivate such qualities as presence, passion, awareness, and curiosity – ones we ascribe to a calling. As in the practice of a calling, quotidian acts, too, can elicit focus and intent, thereby becoming intensified and enriched with meaning.

Might we not elevate any task or job we undertake at the Fellowship by considering it as a short-term calling? Noticing that paper towels need replacing in the restroom and replacing them ... why not?! This small act shows caring, sensitivity to a need and answering its call. Ever-tuning ourselves to the needs of the moment – whether in one’s home, the UUFSA, or the larger community – simple acts, viewed from our faith tradition of love and respect, call us to act and respond.

And we do. Dining with Dignity, the Food Pantry. Our regular presence at these activities says we are present, that we are willing to share ourselves, our gifts. Thus we live in harmony, whether with the “divine” – as in our Spoken Covenant – with our conscience, or with the stirrings of a compassionate heart. As Pastor Baber has noted, “service” is the only word mentioned twice in our Spoken Covenant: “service is our prayer,” and “to serve humanity in Fellowship.” For me, this service is also guided by our Seven Principles and rooted in our Six Sources.

Called to serve, we’re fortified against the undermining voices of fear and doubt. Since service is not about what others think about me, my ego can relax! I’m free to ask: How may I serve, How may I help you? Rather than being a constraint or diminishment, serving becomes a path to liberation and meaning.

Maybe I should have been a preacher, but I’m happy and grateful to be your president!

Please look for my upcoming digest of April’s Board meeting to see the ways in which your Board answers its call to serve.

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 online.
To join online, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4750592013> after 9:30 a.m.

For safety's sake, we are asking 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.

May 1: Robin Mahonen, RRafael2@aol.com

May 8: Robin Mahonen, RRafael2@aol.com

May 15: Chris McDermott, mcnoodle55@gmail.com

May 22: Michael Read, mickread@gmail.com

May 29: Chris McDermott, mcnoodle55@gmail.com

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

There are five Sundays in the month of May and we plan to have a coffee hour after each Sunday service. Two coffee hour hosts are needed each Sunday. If you have any questions or if you'd like to volunteer to host coffee hour, contact Rosi Angeli by calling or texting [904-315-4284](tel:904-315-4284).

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, May 15th Immediately following the service



Please plan to attend the
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine's
Annual Congregational Meeting.
Come in-person or stay online after the Sunday service.

Sunday, May 1, 10:00 a.m.

“Reclaiming Your Sacred Self”

Jon Anastasio

Service Leader: Robin Mahonen

Music: Taffy Rook

Story for All Ages

“You do not have a soul. You *are* a soul. You *have* a body.” – C. S. Lewis



We are not here by accident. We are autonomous spiritual beings having a physical experience to address the reason our souls have embodied in this lifetime. We are free and capable of making our own choices about fulfilling our purpose, the path we follow in its service, and how we learn the lessons of growth that life presents to us.

While we are autonomous, most of our life lessons come to us through engaging with each other. We can best come into authentic alignment with others when we are on the journey to manifesting the best of who we are.

This conversation will help us think about the best next steps to doing just that.

Jon is the author of *Reclaiming Your Sacred Path: Using Divination, Manifestation, and Healing to Resume Your Spiritual Journey*. He is an Arch Priest of the Correllian Nativist Tradition of Wicca, and a member of the Tradition's Chosen Path Church in Jacksonville, where he serves on the Board of Directors. He is a Reiki Master Teacher, practices Shamanic healing and divination, and is a student of A Course in Miracles.

Jon recently relocated from Seattle, Washington, where he led an energy healing, teaching, and Spiritual counseling practice. Currently retired, he previously led the Learning and Organizational Development practices at companies such as Nordstrom, Inc. and Fidelity Investments. He earned his masters and doctoral degrees in adult learning and higher education at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He currently performs as a singer/songwriter in Jacksonville and Saint Augustine.



Sunday, May 8, 10:00 a.m.

“Mother Jones”

Margaret Kaler



Service Leader: Robin Mahonen

Music: Alex Richman

This I Believe: Rosemary Wheeler

Mother Jones was called the most dangerous woman in America. Her dramatic speeches and street theater exposed capitalist exploitation of workers, women, and minorities. She battled corporate presidents and politicians, went to jail repeatedly for organizing workers, and converted tens of thousands of Americans to the labor movement and the left.

Margaret Kaler is an actor who creates portrayals of women from the past whose words and work are still relevant today.

Sunday, May 15, 10:00 a.m.

**“The Mythology of Star Wars –
May the Force be with You”**

Pastor Phillip Baber

Service Leader: Chris McDermott

Music: Taffy Rook

Third Sunday Plate Donation: Food Pantry

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, May 22, 10:00 a.m.

“Flower Communion”

Pastor Phillip Baber

Service Leader: Michael Read

Music: Alex Richman

Green Moment



Sunday, May 29, 10:00 a.m.

“Giving Veterans More than ‘Thanks’: Why Honoring Veterans Requires Understanding their Service and Taking Responsibility for Sending them to War”

Jeffrey Nall, Ph. D.

Service Leader: Chris McDermott

Music: Taffy Rook



In this talk Jeffrey Nall, Ph.D. explores how representations of Hollywood movies, professional sports leagues, and the wider popular culture distort the public’s understanding of veterans’ experiences. Nall contends that flippant and perfunctory affirmation of and “thanks” for military service takes too much for granted and is no substitute for genuine consideration of the harms of war. To honor veterans, particularly combat veterans, we need to take time to understand the moral complexities of their service and take responsibility for electing leaders who send them to war, in the first place.

Jeffrey Nall, Ph.D., teaches philosophy and humanities courses for Indian River State College and the University of Central Florida. Nall also teaches courses in Florida Atlantic University’s Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department. He recently began a Substack newsletter, “Humanities in Revolt,” which can be found at JeffreyNall.substack.com

Program Team Invitation

We are welcoming fellowship members to join this team's important work in providing Sunday morning programming to our members. As a lay-led fellowship, it is important that we support the mission of providing a welcoming and inspiring environment for the diverse interests of members of our spiritual family.

It indeed takes a village!

We meet via Zoom at 5:00 p.m. on the first Monday of each month. Team members may act as Service Leaders, facilitating and supporting the topic of the speaker for the week by choosing appropriate music and readings. They also recommend and schedule outside speakers, but more importantly in this budget crunching time, they honor us all by serving as speakers themselves by donating their time to sharing one of their abilities, or a topic of UU interest. The monthly "This I Believe" segment has taught us surprising and thought provoking things about each other's journeys and spiritual viewpoints. Others have profiled famous Unitarian Universalists or other topics of interest consistent with our Six Sources and Seven Principles. We are a diverse congregation with many talents and skills that we can share with our fellow members and further deepen our connections with each other.

Depending of course on health and safety, we also hope to reconvene our Choir in the sanctuary in the fall. With the loss of our dear Palmer Short, our choir has become much smaller, and without a male voice. Please consider adding your voice to ours, and join or renew your commitment to our Choir.

Remember the words of our Covenant: "Service is our prayer." We would love to hear from you!

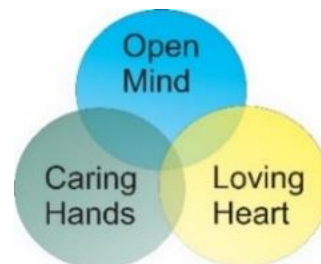
The current Team members are: Robin Mahonen; Chair; Gina Jonas; Michael Read; Chris McDermott; Barbara Battelle; Jerome Fosaaen; Nana Royer, and Margaret Nicholson

Anyone is welcome to join us. Please contact Robin Mahonen at RRafael2@aol.com, or just call her at: 304-639-5538.



Programs for Children and Youth

The highlight of this past month was the Spring Festival on March 27 that was organized and hosted by our children. Thank you to everyone who came.



The children provided refreshments and entertainment. They also gave away information about native milkweed and native milkweed seedlings, and seedlings of other flowering plants that they have sprouted. Prior to the festival they planted a pollinator/butterfly garden with the help of **Maureen and Jim Herth**. This was all part of their efforts to help the environment. During the festival they raffled off art they had made from junk, and clay creations and beautiful flower arrangements they created with the help of **Rosemary Comtois**. The funds raised (\$200) will be used to purchase a Yaupon Holly tree to be planted by the UU's memorial walk. The kids will help plant the tree with **Mary Kellough**.



For more photos of the Spring Festival, see our poster outside our sanctuary.

Our children's focus on the environment did not end with the Spring Festival. They subsequently hosted **Robin and Eddie Mahonen** from whom they learned about the power of music in real-life battles for clean water. They also learned about and planted Seminole pumpkins with **Nana Royer** along the UU's north fence. They hope to harvest the pumpkins in the fall.



We thank all Fellowship members who participated in our children's program. Our kids love getting to know you and learning from you. If you would like to share your passion with our kids, please let us know.

Formal classes will stop at the end of May and resume mid-August when regular services resume.

Jindy Gelow and Barbara Battelle



UU Adult Learning, May 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

May 5 Egalitarianism and Freedom

May 19 The Reagan Revolution

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

June 2.....Cycles of American Political Conversations

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

21st century America: New Challenges and Global Homeostasis

Surindar Paracer, Chair
Richard Lahey, Co-Chair



Great Decisions

Monday, May 16, 6:00 p.m.

“China and the Quad Alliance”

Chuck Chambers

The United States is in dialogue with Japan, Australia, and India in an effort to contain China. The US is promising Quad Alliance members sophisticated weaponry and engaging them in joint naval exercises. Where will all this advanced militarization take the world? How effective will the actions of this alliance be?

To better participate in the discussion, please read the following:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/qvki7vu5xjd1xur/China%20and%20the%20Quad.pdf?dl=0>

Join the discussion on Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84032851311?>

Please join us - and consider bringing a friend!

Great Decisions meets every 3rd Monday at 6:00 p.m. to discuss US Foreign Policy and global Issues. All are welcome.

For more information or to be added to the Great Decision's electronic mailing list, contact Yosi, jomcintire@bellsouth.net or 904 808 2717.

A1A Highway Pickup in May



May brings spring flowers and also marks the month five or six UUs need to roll up their sleeves to clean up the 2-mile stretch along SR A1A. Back in February, our intrepid crew grabbed four bags of trash that was picked up by Florida DOT. Thanks to Nana, Fred, Priscilla, Mary and Robin for joining me in doing the job in February. For the May outing, I'll propose two dates. May 18 (Wed.) or May 21 (Sat.) are the two I have in mind. We usually start early to keep it cool. If you're willing and able to participate, please email me at mcnoodle55@gmail.com and let me know if both or one or

the other dates works for you. Who was it who said "I'll only be with you a short while, but, the trash will always be with you."? Will you join us?

Chris McDermott

Dining With Dignity Sunday, May 1

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.



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.)



Kudos to UUFSA for providing time, talent, and treasure to the Saint Johns Food Pantry. Over the past year our team of ten UU volunteers was joined by six friends from the community to staff the pantry on Fridays. The team's enthusiastic job performance prompted the food pantry president to call us the "A Team." The work of your co-chairs and the Friday team totaled over 1600 hours of service for the year. UUFSA raised \$1082 in donations. Special thanks go to the children in our Children and Youth Education program for their work raising funds for the pantry. Thanks, everyone, for your generous 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 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

May



- 1 – Food drop-off for Dining with Dignity 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- 1 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 2 – Program Team 5:00 p.m.
- 6 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 5 – Adult Learning, in person and online 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- 9 – Board of Trustees meeting, online 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- 13 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 15 – Third Sunday plate collection – Food Pantry
- 16 – Great Decisions 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 20 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 19 – Adult Learning, in person and online 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
- 20 – Deadline for June Quest contributions 5:00 p.m.
- 27 – 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.

Q: Why did the UU cross the road?

A: To facilitate the chicken's personal spiritual journey.

One day, there were three fires in local houses of worship. The firemen arrived at the Jewish Temple, just in time to see the rabbi run out with the Torah. When they arrived at the Catholic Church, they were just in time to see the priest run out with a crucifix. Then they pulled up to the UU Fellowship, and the minister ran out with the coffee pot.

A Unitarian Universalist died, and to his surprise discovered that there was indeed an afterlife. The angel in charge of these things told him: "Because you were an unbeliever and a doubter and a skeptic, you will be sent to Hell for all eternity – which, in your case, consists of a place where no one will disagree with you ever again."

There's this militant atheist. He's such an atheist that the word "god" never escapes his lips, except to prove the impossibility of such a concept. One day, he goes out for a walk in the woods. He's admiring the beauty surrounding him, and thinking how amazing the natural world is. Suddenly he realizes that a bear is following him. He starts walking a little faster. The bear starts walking faster. The atheist starts to run. The bear starts to run. The atheist starts running really fast. The bear surges forward, leaps on the atheist, draws back one big paw to deliver the coup de grace — and without thinking about it, the atheist shouts, "Oh my god."

Time freezes. All sound stops, the leaves are no longer waving in the breeze, the bear's paw stops just short of the guy's head. A big resonant voice comes out of nowhere. "So at last you call on me."

The atheist is astounded. "Well, I guess I can't disbelieve my senses," he says. "All these years I've said there's no god, and now I see there is. I guess it's too much for me to ask you to make me a Christian at this point."

"That would be too much to ask," the voice says.

"Then could you make the bear a Christian?"

"Sure," says the voice.

Time starts again. The bear draws back his paw, looks at it speculatively. The bear rears back on its haunches, puts its paws together in prayer, and starts to speak. "Thank you, dear God, for this feast thou hast laid out before me."

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.

[Register now!](#)