

# QUEST



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

**June 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/>

**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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## **Board of Trustees 2021 - 2022**

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Trustee .....	Cal Marshall
Trustee .....	Rosi Angeli



The *Quest* is published monthly September through July.

**Materials for the July-August issue are due by June 17.**

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

Thanks to Adele DelSavio for proofreading.

# From Your President



Dear Members and Friends,

At our May 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday Service something very unusual happened. Pastor Baber was scheduled to give the Raffle-a-Sermon talk on Star Wars. Instead, he asked us to face a tragedy – the murder of 10 black persons – in this country. He read details from a news account to show why he could not simply carry on as usual. Courageously, he responded to his heart and led us in a congregational conversation to confront this tragedy.

To the despair that was voiced, he passionately recalled us to the hope our faith makes possible. Fearlessly, we spoke our truths to each other and listened to Phillip's responses. The interplay of our voices created a spontaneous "call and response," weaving our community more closely together. We faced this present tragedy grounded in our faith. Rooted in its foundational principles, I knew we would continue to oppose hatred, ignorance, and fear. We are a loving, ethical congregation, "singing for our lives."

For me, that song turned joyous as we completed the business of our annual meeting – the springtime renewal of commitment to our Fellowship. Let's celebrate the numbers: nearly half of our members attended, double the number needed for a quorum! Your acceptance of agenda items, so carefully and thoughtfully prepared by dedicated volunteers, was by acclamation, 100%! Could you have sent a stronger message to me and our outgoing Board that we fulfilled our responsibility to represent and guide our Fellowship?

If I may speak on behalf of our new Board: we will make the same effort to serve you next year, to listen to you, to create with you as we work together to sustain and build our community. Let us ever be a loving, ethical congregation, "singing for our lives," in duets, trios, choruses ... resolving dissonance into harmony, ever learning to tune ourselves to the moment and its needs, to the future and its possibilities.

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 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.

June 5: Nana Royer, [nanaroyer@gmail.com](mailto:nanaroyer@gmail.com)

June 12: Gina Jonas, [gina.jonas@gmail.com](mailto:gina.jonas@gmail.com)

June 19: Chris McDermott, [mcnoodle55@gmail.com](mailto:mcnoodle55@gmail.com)

June 26: Gina Jonas, [gina.jonas@gmail.com](mailto:gina.jonas@gmail.com)

## **Sunday, June 5, 10:00 a.m. “Second Star to the Right and Straight on Till Morning” Pastor Phillip Baber**

Service Leader: Nana Royer

Music: Alex Richman

Story for All Ages

In this sermon, we will interrogate the theology of J.M. Barrie’s *“Peter Pan; or, the Boy Who Wouldn’t Grow Up.”*

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, June 12, 10:00 a.m.**

## **“The Missing Voices Project”**

### **The Missing Voices Project Design Team**

Meredith Holmes - Lead Innovator & Youth Director at Grace United Methodist Church

Nadine Hughey - Mother & member of Grace UMC

Michelle Kypriss -Teacher at Murray Middle School

Meti Ferguson - Teacher at Victory Prep School,

Heaven Ferguson - Student at Murray Middle School

London Parker - Student Intern at Murray M.S.

Emily Walczak - Student Intern at Murray M.S.

Service Leader: Gina Jonas

Music: Taffy Rook

This I Believe: Surinder Paracer

The Missing Voices Project is a collaboration of adults and middle and high school students. Its aim is to develop skills for the practice of diversity, equity & inclusion and thereby create multicultural leaders in St. Augustine and the surrounding areas. Meeting weekly, its members use tools from VISIONS, Inc. to practice skills for leading conversations across differences in race, gender, and sexuality. The work operates at four levels: personal, interpersonal, institutional and cultural.





**Sunday, June 19, 10:00 a.m.**

**“The Origin of Love”**

**Pastor Phillip Baber**

Service Leader: Chris McDermott

Music: Barbara Joy Plattner

Third Sunday Plate Donation: Wildflower Clinic

An examination of the origin and substance of love, with insight from Plato to Paul (Saint and McCartney).

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, June 26, 10:00 a.m.**

**“What Can We Learn from a Contemplative Skeptic?”**

**Barrett Evans**

Service Leader: Gina Jonas

Music: Alex Richman

Green Moment



Join us for a talk by Barrett Evans on his book of meditations, *The Contemplative Skeptic*. Barrett’s non-supernatural perspective focuses on the value of honest doubt, finding solace from harmful forms of religious indoctrination, and seeking a path of more peaceful, authentic, and compassionate living.

A former evangelical seminarian and ex-Roman Catholic, Barrett Evans is an agnostic who has retained a fascination with contemplative spirituality. In addition to writing on topics related to spirituality and skepticism, Barrett helps lead the Humanism with Heart group at the UU Fellowship in Winston-Salem, NC.

# Programs for Children and Youth

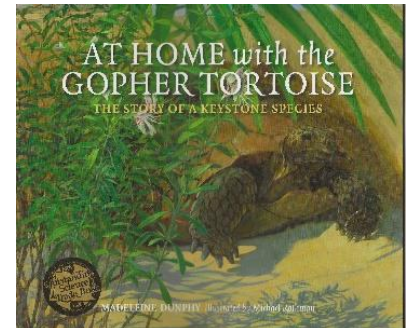


The culmination of our young people's environmental studies and activism was the planting of Yaupon Trees at the west end of the UU's memorial walk. The trees were purchased with funds the young people raised during the Spring Festival they organized at the UU and selected by **Mary**



**Kellough**. The planting ceremony was led by **Cal Marshall** who provided a blessing from the indigenous people of the American Southwest. He was joined by parents, other members and our young people.

The final focus of our children's classes for the current congregational year is animals. So far, they have learned about two local endangered species. By reading this



past month's **Story for All Ages**, which they shared with you, they learned about the gopher tortoise, and from **Kasey Hester** they learned about the plight of the Florida manatees. They got up



close and personal with a variety of live, local marine invertebrates through a visit from **The Traveling Zoo** from **UF's Whitney Lab**.

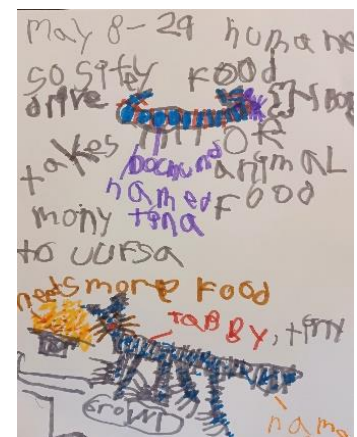
They touched, held and asked a million questions about the seastars, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, conch, welks, hermit crabs and horseshoe crabs in the zoo. Afterwards, they shared what they discovered with other members of the Fellowship. Their final class, presented by **Claudia Atkins**, focused on Ladybugs, a beautiful and very important insect.



Our young people also remembered the cats and dogs in our homes, very important members of families. They learned from the Humane Society that many families are

struggling to purchase food for their pets, so our **Enchanting Activists** have launched a pet food and fund-raising drive for the local humane society. There are containers near the greeter's table for food you may bring in, or you may write a check to the UUFSA with *Pet Food* in the memo line.

Their last class will be May 29. This is a celebration organized by Kelly Sommer. After service, come to our backyard and wish our wonderful Enchanting Activists a happy summer!



*Jindy Gelow and Barbara Battelle*



# **UUFSA Adult Learning, June 2**

## **Cycles of American Political Conversations**

**6:00 – 7:30 p.m.**

**Meeting in Person at the Fellowship and on Zoom**

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

**Pass code: 011244**

It is often argued that Americans either have no political thought (*Pragmatists*) or their thought is *simply liberal*! Overall, American political thought revolves around liberalism and flexing in response to new times and arguments. This adaptive flexibility has allowed America's transition from squabbling colonies to international superpower.

Today, our political polarization appears large and we see cataclysmic faults everywhere we turn. So did those of earlier times. This reflects a human tendency to magnify the present and diminish the past.

Dr. Joseph Kobylka, Professor of Political Science at Southern Methodist University, will be our guide in this American Political Conversation.

**Surindar Paracer, Chair**  
**Richard Lahey, Co-Chair**



## **Great Decisions**

Great Decisions is on summer break and will recommence in September.

For more information or to be added to the Great Decision's electronic mailing list, contact Yosi, [jomcintire@bellsouth.net](mailto:jomcintire@bellsouth.net) or 904-808-2717.

# A1A Highway Pickup Committee News



The UUFSA Picker Uppers cleared trash on both sides of A1A from Marsh Creek to Pope Road on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to the hugely productive “Fantastic Four” [Fred Dolgin, Michael Read, Nana Royer and myself], the work was done in a little over two hours. As a result, the roadsides are a lot cleaner and missing a few thousand cigarette butts, the latest and greatest species of trash left on our roadside these days. The next pickup will take place in early September, right after Labor Day. The FF would like to become the “Sensational Six” in the fall; there’s room for you to volunteer. Let me

know if you can join us; just email Chris at [mcnoodle55@gmail.com](mailto:mcnoodle55@gmail.com). Thanks again for your service.

***Chris McDermott***

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



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](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 Chris Fosaaen at 904-673-5630 or email [cfosaaen@gmail.com](mailto:cfosaaen@gmail.com)

***Chris Fosaaen, Chair***



# Dining With Dignity

## Sunday, June 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](mailto: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



# June



- 3 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 2 – Adult Learning, in person and online 6:00 – 7:30 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 p.m.
- 10 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 13 – Board of Trustees meeting, online 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- 17 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 17 – Deadline for July-August Quest contributions 5:00 p.m.
- 19 – Third Sunday plate collection – Wildflower Clinic
- 24 – 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).***

If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.

Tip of the day: Blow on the wine in your coffee mug to conceal from the rest in the Zoom meeting what you're really drinking.

Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.

Take my advice — I'm certainly not using it.

Ever stop to think and forget to start again?

Is it wrong that only one company makes the game Monopoly?

I was going to wear my camouflage shirt today, but I couldn't find it.

If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.

In order to escape the gloom and doom of this world, I decided to take up Latin again. I bought Latin 101 from the Great Courses series. Now to enter a world far removed from this crazy one! The first verb to conjugate is agere, to do or to lead. The professor uses it in the sentence: "Gaius Julius Caesar bellum in Gallia agit." Word for word: "Gaius Julius Caesar war in Gaul does." Or as we would say: "Gaius Julius Caesar wages war in Gaul." Hmm, not very escapist. I'll try the next sentence: "Vince Gallia, Caesar!" ("Conquer Gaul, Caesar!") Hmm. I'll try the next one: "Ponite flores, milites, et vincite!" ("Put away the flowers, soldiers, and conquer!") Well, the next one? "Servum vendit." (He sells the slave.) After that, I gave up Latin.