

QUEST



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

September 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 October issue are due by September 16.

(Friday before the next to last Sunday)

Don Brandes, Editor: donaldbrandes@gmail.com

Thanks to Adele DelSavio and Michael Read for proofreading.

From Your President



Dear Members and Friends,

Welcome to our new congregational year! With joy, I anticipate seeing your unique selves gathered together, united once again in community. Ever in search of meaning, I was delighted to learn from Webster that “unique” and “unity” share the Latin root “unus,” meaning one. This emboldens me to hope for a like synergy for us, both 1) as individuals, each reaching for their unique expressive potential and 2) as a community, united in the dignity of common purpose, guided by our seven Principles.

My anticipation also arises from our potential as a dynamic, loving community. For me, “love” – care and respect – takes place both inside our walls, and outside them, through our actions for social justice. As UUs, we now have an opportunity to strengthen our foundation for such efforts as we consider an “8th Principle,” a grassroots proposal adopted by over 200 UU congregations. It currently reads:

“Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by building a diverse, multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

At our last UUFSA Board meeting, we decided to explore the 8th Principle through presentations and discussions. To help guide us, I have begun attending a monthly “Learning Community” dedicated to understanding this basically anti-racist Principle, and I will have attended a “Jubilee Anti-Racist Training” workshop when you read this. The UUA plans to discuss it in January and bring it to a vote at the 2023 General Assembly.

For background, see the back of this Quest (pages 11 – 13) and, please know, I welcome your questions. Racism continues to infect the body politic and bring misery to the lives of our fellow citizens. The various calls for dignity, justice, compassion, and the acknowledgment of interdependence, found in our 7 Principles, cry out for the laser-like focus of the 8th Principle. It is a rallying cry to go deeper, to respond with greater care.

In all likelihood, differences of opinion will arise as we consider this proposal, and all ideas are welcome. I fervently hope our communication training program, “Listen & Talk with Heart,” and our revised Good Relations Policies (now hanging in the foyer) will help guide and support us. Ultimately, we’ll rely on the democratic process to decide whether we adopt this Principle. Let’s engage in this conversation as an opportunity to grow in our relationships. I have the sincerest faith we’ll meet this challenge openly, stepping carefully and caringly on the path to truth and meaning!

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.

A Little Help from Your Friends



For any reason, if you need help getting from the parking lot to the Sanctuary and back again, we now have a wheelchair on hand to assist you. Just ask anyone in the parking lot to let the Greeters know that you need assistance, and someone will come to your car with the wheelchair. Please try to arrive 15 minutes early so we have time to get you situated. Note that you must be able to transfer into and out of the wheelchair on your own. We hope this service furthers our aim to be an inclusive, welcoming community.

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.

September 4: Gina Jonas, gina.jonas@gmail.com

September 11: Chris McDermott, mcnoodle55@gmail.com

September 18: Gina Jonas, gina.jonas@gmail.com

September 25: Michael Read, mickread@gmail.com

Sunday, September 4, 10:00 a.m.

“What Unions Have Done for Me”

Russell Harper

Service Leader: Gina Jonas

Music: Alex Richman



Russell Harper:

47 years in the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)

IBEW 177 Recording Secretary 9 years

IBEW 177 President 15 years

IBEW 177 Business Manager 12 years

North Florida Central Labor Council President since 2008

Past North Florida Construction and Building Trades President

Retired from IBEW 2017, still paying dues to remain active in the Labor movement

Sunday, September 11, 10:00 a.m.
"Remembrances and Reflections on 9/11"

Service Leader: Chris McDermott and Robin Mahonen
Music: Barbara Joy Plattner
This I Believe

Twenty-one years ago, on September 11, 2001, the United States experienced the worst terrorist attack in our history. We honor those lost on this day, all the first responders, and those lost in the aftermath, with an open congregational discussion of our thoughts. Consider how your remembrances and reflections might add to our understanding of this tragic event.

Sunday, September 18, 10:00 a.m.
**"From Good to Great and
How Words Impact Us Getting There"**
Dr. Irvin PeDro Cohen

Service Leader: Gina Jonas
Music: Alex Richman
Special Message: "Listen & Talk with Heart!"
Collection Plate: Wildflower Clinic
Third Sunday Food Collection

Dr. Irvin PeDro Cohen is the Executive Director of Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Jacksonville. Dr. Cohen is a Jacksonville native. He received his bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of North Florida, an MBA in Marketing from Pfeiffer University in Charlotte, NC and a Doctorate in Organizational Leadership and Urban Education from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale. His research is largely centered on the social well-being (education, healthcare and economics) of low socioeconomic communities, particularly the role the African American church plays within that space.



Sunday, September 25, 10:00 a.m.

“Thinking Anthropologically about Race and Racialization in the US”

Dr. Lori Lee

Service Leader: Michael Read

Music: Barbara Joy Plattner

Special Message: “Green Minute”

Dr. Lori Lee will consider the cultural construction of racial and ethnic boundaries over time in the United States, with particular focus on the complex ways that hierarchies of race and ethnicity are represented, reproduced, and/or contested in U.S. politics and culture to reflect on why racism is still entrenched in white culture.

Dr. Lori Lee is a Kenan Distinguished Associate Professor of Anthropology at Flagler College. Her research focuses on the materiality of identity in African Diaspora communities in the past and present.



Coffee Hour Resumes

Our weekly post-service coffee hour resumes together with on-site services at the UUFSA. Volunteer coffee hour hosts are needed! We will start off plain and simple with coffee, tea and cookies served outdoors as weather permits and indoors as COVID permits.

Call or text hospitality team leader Rosi Angeli 904-315-4284 to become a volunteer coffee hour host on the Sunday of your choice during 2022!

Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Celebration

Sunday, October 30 during service

Our UUFSA Care Connection invites you to celebrate the lives of your deceased loved ones at our Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration. The celebration will take place at our service on Sunday, October 30.

You're invited to bring a photo or small memento of those you'll be remembering. We'll have a table set up that morning for these items. You will also be invited to share a brief memory of your loved ones

Programs for Children and Youth

Jindy Gelow and Barbara Battelle

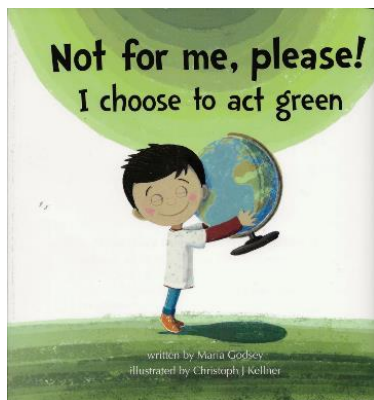


We are delighted to welcome our children back to the UUFSA and back in the sanctuary.

In the Sanctuary.

Our service will begin with families together in the sanctuary for chalice lighting and welcoming words after which the young people go to their own class. Our youngest children may start in their classroom.

Once each month our children participate in an intergenerational story in the sanctuary, help gather non-perishable food donations for the local Ecumenical Food Pantry and, with their parents, serve as chalice lighters.



In their classes.

Classes will take place both indoors and in our outdoor classroom.

Nursery through preschool. A nurturing environment is provided for children to interact with other children and adults, and to explore ideas through books, music, art, and construction materials. Through entertaining and age-appropriate materials, we introduce children to our UU Principles.

Elementary through Middle School. Age-appropriate, UUA curricula will be used to encourage students to shape their own answers to big questions. This year we will use two curricula. The UUA's **"Riddles and Mysteries"** curriculum (<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/riddle>) provides a fun way to help our young people explore the BIG QUESTIONS people have been thinking about since the beginning of time. The **"D'OH God" curriculum** (<http://www.imagine-re.com/d-oh--god-.html>) applies the teachings in selected episodes of *"The Simpsons"* animated television series as an engaging way to help students consider differing religious beliefs and faith traditions and how these differing beliefs and traditions inform people's responses to important ethical questions.

High School. With guidance of a facilitator, the curriculum is developed by the students themselves as they seek to understand who they are and to find their place in the world.

Festivals and Social action. Our young people plan to continue hosting festivals for the entire UUFSA membership and engaging in social action. **No one is too young to make a difference.**

For more information email: BattelleBarbara@gmail.com

UUFSA Adult Learning 2022-23

Session are in person at the Fellowship only, not online.

The universality and evolution of myths in the history of the human race and place of myths in modern society will be the primary focus of our attention. *Some examples of myth-making in our times:*

Racial myths of fascism

Enemy of the people

The Lost Cause: Monuments to Confederacy

Myths of totalitarian communism

The myth of the welfare mother who drives a Cadillac to pick up her check

Joseph Campbell blends accounts of his own upbringing and experience with stories from many cultures and civilizations to present us with his most compelling thesis that modern society is going through a transition from old mythologies and traditions to a new way of thinking where a global mythology will emerge.

Part 1: Joseph Campbell and Power of Myth

September 22	The Hero's Adventure
October 6	The Message of the Myth
October 20	The First Storytellers
November 3	Sacrifice and Bliss
November 17	Love and the Goddess
December 8	Masks of Eternity



Part 2

January 5	Myth and Meaning
	The Continuing Importance of Myth
January 19	Emergence and World – Parent
Creation Myths	
	Cosmic Egg and Ex Nihilo Creation Myths
February 2	Female Heroes – Demeter and Hester Prynne
	Female Heroes – Psyche and Beauty
February 16	Creation Myths
	Hebrew Creation Myths
March 2	Greek and Norse Pantheons
March 16	The Goddess – Inanna and Dumuzi
	The Goddess – Isis and Osiris
April 6	The Tricksters in Mythology
	Tricksters from around the world
April 20	Shamans and Vegetation Gods
	Sky Gods and Earth Goddesses
May 4	The Places of Myths – Rocks and Lakes
	The Places of Myths – Mountains
	The Places of Myths – Sacred Trees
May 18	The Myths of Cosmic Destruction
June 1	Mesopotamian and Hebrew Flood Myths
	Other Flood Myths

Jocelyn Breakwell, Series Coordinator
Richard Lahey and Surindar Paracer

Dining With Dignity

Sunday, September 4

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.)



The Saint Johns Food Pantry serves families Monday to Friday from 1:00 to 4:00. Volunteers 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.

Volunteers are needed to work with the UU team on Friday afternoons or with other teams on Tuesday or Thursday from 12:30 to 4:30. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Chris Fosaaen at 904-673-5630 or email cfosaaen@gmail.com.

Chris Fosaaen, Chair



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.

Two cows are grazing in a field. One cow says to the other, "You ever worry about that mad cow disease?" The other cow says, "Why would I care? I'm a helicopter!"

Why can't you trust an atom? Because they make up everything.

If you can smile when things go wrong, you have someone in mind to blame.

Why should you never date a tennis player? Because love means nothing to them.

My daughter thinks I don't give her enough privacy. At least that's what she wrote in her diary.

How do you make holy water? You boil the hell out of it.



UUFSA Calendar

September



- 1 – Motion is Lotion 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- 2 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 4 – Food drop-off for Dining with Dignity 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- 4 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 5 – Program Team 5:00 p.m.
- 8 – Motion is Lotion 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- 9 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 12 – Board of Trustees meeting, online 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- 15 – Motion is Lotion 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- 16 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 16 – Deadline for October Quest contributions 5:00 p.m.
- 18 – Third Sunday food collection at start of service
- 18 – Collection plate to Wildflower Clinic
- 19 – Great Decisions 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 22 – Motion is Lotion 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- 23 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 29 – Motion is Lotion 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- 30 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

The 8th Principle: Background

**The 8th Principle: We covenant to affirm and promote:
Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by building a diverse,
multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably
dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our
institutions.**

Where did this come from originally?

- Paula Cole Jones, JPD (Joseph Priestley District - the mid-Atlantic district of the UUA, now subsumed into the larger Central East Regional Group, CERG) Director of Racial & Social Justice, developed the idea of the existence of 2 different paradigms in UU circles: the UU 7 Principles and Beloved Community (deep multiculturalism). After working with congregations on these issues for over 15 years, she realized that a person can believe they are being a “good UU” and following the 7 Principles without thinking about or dealing with racism and other oppressions at the *systemic* level. Evidence: most UU congregations are primarily European-American in membership, culture (especially music), and leadership, even when located near diverse communities. She realized that an 8th Principle was needed to correct this, and talked with Bruce Pollack-Johnson about some of the components that should be in it. Bruce put together an initial draft in 2013, and the two of them worked with a group of anti-racist activists in the JPD to refine it. Bruce’s congregation (the UU Church of the Restoration in Philadelphia) incorporated it into their Covenant at that time, then in May 2017 formally adopted it for themselves and recommended that the UUA adopt it.
- UUs and the UUA have done very good work in fighting racism, such as during the Civil Rights Movement and in the 1990’s (passing a resolution in 1997 at GA, after a precursor resolution in 1992, to become an Anti-Racist, Anti-Oppression Multi-Cultural, or ARAOMC, Organization), but the funding and support started to wane in the 2000’s – our accountability mechanism failed us. UU’s also have a mixed record historically in other areas of racial justice: e.g., we had people on both sides of Abolitionism (including people like Jefferson who was a slaveholder), and some Unitarians were proponents of Eugenics (leading to some of the racial extremes of Nazism and Apartheid in South Africa).
- For people identified as white, it is too easy to ignore these issues, which is exactly what keeps the system of racism in our society alive and in fact worsening right now. We need to de-center whiteness and other dominant cultures in UUism.
- The 8th Principle came from a feeling that we need something to renew our commitment to this work, to hold ourselves *accountable*, and to fulfill the *potential* of our existing principles.

Why Now?

- The UUA has just (since 2017) gone through a crisis related to inclusive hiring practices, especially related to whites being hired over highly qualified Latinx candidates, resulting in the resignation of the UUA President. Now that the resulting Commission on Institutional Change report is out (GA 2020), the Article 2 Commission to consider the 8th Principle has been formed. They will make recommendations by January 2023, to be voted on at GA in 2023 and 2024.
- In response to this crisis, Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) and Diverse Revolutionary UU Ministries (DRUUM) endorsed the 8th Principle. BLUU’s main point is that the UUA voted in 1997 at GA to commit to intentionally becoming an ARAOMC institution. Initially good progress was made, with programs including the Journey Toward Wholeness, the Jubilee Anti-Racism Training workshops, process evaluation at meetings, and multicultural consulting services. In the early 2000s, funding and support for much of this work began to decline. The recent hiring crisis is not surprising in light of this decreasing support and lost focus. BLUU is holding all of the UUA accountable to that commitment,

and expresses disappointment that the 8th Principle has not already been supported and midwifed by UUA leadership. Allies for Racial Equity (ARE - the UU white ally group) support BLUU in BLUU's endorsement of the 8th Principle. The White Supremacy Teach-In in 2017 included the BLUU endorsement of the 8th Principle with their resources for planning for the Teach-In. See: <http://www.blacklivesuu.com/teachin/>.

- UU funding and focus in the last decade shifted toward shallower diversity rather than deep multicultural Beloved Community and structural change. UU support of the Movement for Black Lives has been encouraging; the best way for us to truly support racial justice in a significant way is to purge ourselves and our institutions of the culture and exclusive practices of whiteness and white supremacy as well as structures oppressing other groups.
- The murder of George Floyd has sparked a national and global uprising against police brutality and systemic racism, with great momentum and tangible early results. Adopting the 8th Principle is a great way to work on structures within our own UU systems to do this work, which will inevitably support these changes beyond UUism as well.

Why the UUA (USA)?

- Whiteness, and chattel slavery (structural racism) were invented in the US, at the same time that modern Unitarianism and Universalism were being created. Social Security, federal housing programs, and the GI Bill all excluded most Blacks.
- Unitarians originally were largely from the New England European-American elite – often did not treat Native American peoples well, benefitted from slavery, and some were leaders in the Eugenics movement (promoting birth control for people of color because they were seen as inferior).
- Some UU ministers (more Universalists, since Universalism was more of a working class movement) spoke out against slavery, but we did little as a denomination. After the Trayvon Martin verdict, many UU ministers said nothing in church.
- UU's did a very good job during the Civil Rights Movement, largely at the request of Dr. King, and we should be very proud of that. Mark Morrison-Reed points out that this came out of years of building cross-racial relationships.
- In the late 60's a promising movement (BAC, BUUC) was supported by the UUA, then de-funded because of a financial crisis, leading to a terrible conflict, after which many African-Americans left the UUA.
- There was a long period of silence until the late 80's and early 90's, then excellent progress after that for a decade or so, but we have regressed, leading to the UUA President resigning over hiring inclusivity issues

Why single out racism?

- At a global level, this would not necessarily make sense (for instance, the oppression of women is fundamental to poverty and lack of development in many areas), but in the USA, racism stands out. The two worst crises of the UUA (late 1960's and now) were both related to race. Racism in the US stems from chattel slavery, where people were uniquely legally treated as *property* that could be inherited, for something (skin color) they had no control over. Race is a social construct.
- The UUA has done well with women becoming ministers and leaders. The LGBTQIA+ community is well represented as members, ministers, RE staff, and other leadership in individual congregations and the UUA, and the Welcoming Congregation program has been very effective (we could use something similar for racism); we have also made some progress with people who are disabled, although many UU spaces are not accessible.
- The UUA, the US, and the world also have a lot of problems deeply based in economic class oppression (as MLK realized, in addition to militarism and materialism); this Principle includes that, but is not highlighting it.

What is *Beloved Community*?

- Beloved Community happens when people of diverse racial, ethnic, educational, class, gender, sexual orientation backgrounds/identities and abilities come together in an interdependent relationship of love, mutual respect, and care that seeks to realize justice within the community and in the broader world. UUs espouse it, but it's not yet in our Principles.

What does it mean to be *accountable*?

- White UUs hold themselves accountable to communities of color, to make sure whites do what they say they will do. In practice, that can mean having a People of Color Caucus within congregations, districts, etc., to discern and express needs and concerns to the rest of the community. If a congregation has no members of color, they can develop an accountability relationship with a community group. Black UUs hold each other accountable and help each other see and dismantle signs of internalized racism. We need an *effective* mechanism or structure to ensure this. Similarly for other oppressions.

Other Comments

- Our existing 7 principles *imply* this 8th principle, but do not *explicitly* hold us accountable for addressing these oppressions directly, especially at the *systemic* level. **Over 140 congregations, Hawaii to DC, have adopted it!**
- UUism has great potential for building diverse multicultural Beloved Community as envisioned by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (not just European/Americans and African/Americans, but including Native Americans, Latinx people, and other cultural groups) *globally* and could experience tremendous diversification, vitality, and thriving if it works to embody this vision, but it won't happen without conscious awareness and effort on our part. The current shift from individual freedom to collective liberation has incredible potential for growing a diverse global movement.
- Dismantling racism, white supremacy, and other oppressions requires *work* at the personal *and* institutional levels.
- The UU Principles were designed to be *dynamic*, not a fixed creed. It means we want to always continue to be educating ourselves, exploring truth, and raising our consciousness. When we get to a new level of understanding and clarity, our structure makes it possible to reflect that. UU is the only religion that intentionally builds in that flexibility to acknowledge the importance of ongoing revealed truth. This happened when environmental awareness reached a critical mass and got added as a 7th Principle (it also has multicultural relationship implications). We are approaching a similar critical mass level of awareness with the *systemic* nature of racism and other oppressions.
- None of the other Principles mentions *love*; by having "Beloved Community" in the 8th Principle, it brings our commitment to love higher in our consciousness, consistent with our Side with Love campaign.
- The 8th Principle is really just the *beginning* of action, rather than the ultimate goal. It should lead to restoring funding and support for Jubilee Anti-Racism trainings for any UUs who want them and the other programs of the late 90s, as well as starting an anti-racism version of the Welcoming Congregation program that was so effective for LGBTQIA+ awareness and progress. Many people of color have been attracted by the values and potential of UUism, but their souls have been repeatedly wounded by its whiteness. Let's make our *actions* match our *values*. Let's be a UU movement that feeds *them*. That would be spiritual wholeness. GA 2017 voted overwhelmingly in favor of exploring the 8th Principle.
- **What you can do:** Discuss the 8th Principle with your congregation. *Adopt* it for your congregation. *Live* by it. *Act!* For more information: visit www.8thPrincipleUU.org, email pollackjohnson@verizon.net, or call 215-848-6246. Ask to join our monthly national UU 8th Principle Learning Community via Zoom.