

QUEST



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

October 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 November issue are due by October 21.

(Friday before the next to last Sunday of the month)

Don Brandes, Editor: donaldbrandes@gmail.com

Thanks to Michael Read for proofreading.

From Your President



Dear Members and Friends,

“I am large, I contain multitudes!” I begin with Walt Whitman’s words because they expand and empower me. Stirring a sense of possibility, they encourage me to look fearlessly for the unknown horizons and depths within myself. New vistas open as Whitman’s words boisterously proclaim human possibility – and I want to sing, joyously, in a Whitmanesque spirit: “**We** are large, **We** contain multitudes!”

Taking these words to heart, I realize they have ethical implications. Being empowered, how will I use my power? How will we use our power? The historical context within which these questions arise, both in our UU faith and in society at large, help guide our answers. At this time, many within Unitarian Universalism believe a prodigious effort and commitment is needed to align us yet more closely with our Principles and Covenants. Consequently, there is a groundswell within the faith to add an 8th Principle to our existing seven:

“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.”

Deeply rooted in one of our six Sources, the prophetic tradition of speaking truth to power, the 8th Principle calls for accountable action in the face of ongoing racial injustice and oppression. It prods us to more vigorously affirm our first two Principles—1) The inherent worth and dignity of every person, and 2) Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. These form the foundation upon which we are now called to build, with radical hope and courage, new inclusive laws, institutions, and cultural expressions.

What I’ve found most helpful on my own journey, from inaction to passionate engagement, is learning that racism exists on four levels: personal, interpersonal, institutional (systemic) and cultural. I now want to be part of the effort to dismantle an egregious system rooted in 400 years of laws and lies. I fervently hope you’ll join me and the UUFSA Board in exploring what this work means for you, individually, and for us, as a “loving, dynamic” community.

The Program Team will support our efforts with speakers, and a video presentation by one of the 8th Principle’s co-authors at our November 6th Sunday service. We’ll set up a book discussion group and welcome your suggestions. We’ll aim for true dialogue, where each of you feels safe and valued, and contributes to “the pool of meaning.” (*Crucial Conversations, tools for talking when stakes are high*, p. 26).

In the warmth of fellowship,

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



Sunday services

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, we are asking everyone present in person at the live service 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.

October 2: Nana Royer, nanaroyer@gmail.com

October 9: Chris McDermott, mcnoodle55@gmail.com

October 16: Gina Jonas, gina.jonas@gmail.com

October 23: Robin Mahonen, RRafael2@aol.com

October 30: Maureen Herth, jmlnherth@aol.com

Coffee Hour Resumes

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!



Sunday, October 2, 10:00 a.m.
**"Who Am I to Play God? The Daily Struggle to
Protect Humans and the Environment"**

Trish Becker

Service Leader: Nana Royer

Music: Alex Richman

Story for All Ages



Trish Becker is a wife, mother, cat lady, and Commissioner at the Anastasia Mosquito Control District. You may know her from the advocacy work she has done as a founder of the St. Augustine Women's March and the Women's March Alliance of North Florida. Trish has helped organize actions for many issues. She is a school shooting survivor in 1994, and that moment has been cemented in her work and lets her tackle more difficult issues like mental health. Her advocacy in environmental issues fueled her run for office. Trish decided she wanted to be a part of the solution, and be a voice for all people. Over the past 4 years as a Commissioner, Trish has learned so much about how public

health, safety, environmental, religious, and social issues affect the "interconnected web of all existence of which we are a part."

Sunday, October 9, 10:00 a.m.
"The 20th Century Non-violent Movement"
Prof. Mike Butler

Service Leader: Chris McDermott

Music: Barbara Joy Plattner

This I Believe: Judy Olson

This presentation concerns how the 20th century non-violent movement was rooted in the Black Protestant Church, particularly the Baptists, and how the institution has historically been a harbor where African Americans have sought refuge from the dehumanization they encountered in a white-dominated society.

Michael Butler is the Kenan Distinguished Professor of History at Flagler College. Professor Butler is the author of *Victory After the Fall: The Memories of Civil Rights Activist H. K. Matthews*, and of *Beyond Integration: The Black Freedom Struggle in Escambia County, Florida, 1960-1980*. He has published in the *Journal of Southern History*, *Florida Historical Quarterly*, *Southern Cultures*, *Popular Music and Society*, and the *Journal of Mississippi History*. He has also written more than 40 book reviews and encyclopedia entries for various academic journals.



Sunday, October 16, 10:00 a.m.
“On Forgiveness and Atonement”
Pastor Phillip Baber

Service Leader: Gina Jonas

Music: Alex Richman

Special Message: “Listen & Talk with Heart!”: Gina Jonas

Collection Plate: Wildflower Clinic

Third Sunday Food Collection:

In this sermon we will consider the ancient Christian Church's response to "the Lapsi" as a guide to help us navigate a Unitarian Universalist response to intra-communal harm and wrongdoing.



Sunday, October 23, 10:00 a.m.
“Earth Kinship and Ecotourism”
AyoLane Halusky

Service Leader: Robin Mahonen

Music: Barbara Joy Plattner

“Green Minute”

Does a human enjoying Nature have to harm it in the process?

AyoLane Halusky’s personal mission is building kinship with the earth, which motivates through deep connection with the local environment, sensitizing people to take an active role in creating positive life journeys and communities. AyoLane endeavors to create awareness of the local environment and encourage a stronger connection between the person and the consciousness of the Earth.

AyoLane Halusky is a native Floridian and is known as a specialist in experiential outdoor leadership education by his peers. With more than 30 years of experience in wilderness adventure, survival skills and therapeutic programs, he has facilitated many adventure-based programs in multiple styles of back-country expeditions across the US. AyoLane developed a deep connection with natural communities from an early age and continued nurturing this connection through his studies with the earth and the native people. His journey began by spending time with his family exploring the rivers and oceans of Florida. His desire to understand the mysteries of the natural habitats and the natives who inhabit the land was fueled when he found his first arrowhead in a cornfield with his grandfather. This path continued when Native Elders recognized his passions and inspired him to keep this earth kinship alive. AyoLane is the founder of Earth Kinship Ecotours and Naturalist School, Florida Master Naturalist Instructor, Certified Transformational Life Coach, Team Building Facilitator, Tracking & Survival Skills



Instructor, Earth Mentor, Wilderness Guide, ACA Level 2 Coastal Kayak Instructor, and Wilderness First Responder.

Sunday, October 30, 10:00 a.m.

“Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Celebration”

Service Leader: Maureen Herth

Music: Alex Richman

Story for All Ages

This is a sharing service and all are invited to participate. The Care Connection Team invites you to a Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration. This traditional Mexican holiday is a time to honor, celebrate, remember, and feel closer to our lost loved ones. There will be an ‘altar’ at the front of the Sanctuary for photos or small mementos of those you will be remembering. You will have the opportunity to share a brief happy memory or story about your loved one. The colors of the holiday are pink, purple, red, white, yellow and orange, so please wear those if you have them in your closet.



Programs for Children and Youth

Jindy Gelow and Barbara Battelle



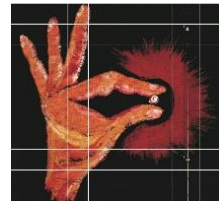
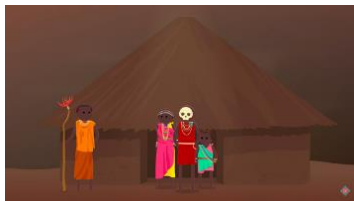
Our classes are off to a great start! Our young people were introduced to the UUA's **"Riddles and Mysteries"** curriculum

(<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/children/riddle>) by exploring one of the biggest of the BIG QUESTIONS: Where do we come from? They did an activity called WIT, **What I Think**, and set up a mock broadcasting studio for station **WCUU** to explore **What the Community of UUs think**. These two activities will be a constant as they investigate each new BIG QUESTION.

Our students thought about the curious importance of turtles in the creation stories of cultures as diverse as the Iroquois of upstate New York and the people of India and the idea that it is "Turtles all the way down." The young people quickly recognized the problem with the logic of the latter.



They explored at home and brought in and talked about creation stories from different cultures including Guinea, China and the Maori people of New Zealand. They came to understand that the ways in which different people imagined creation varied, often dramatically, depending on place and culture. They were also reminded of the story of the "Everything Seed" a creation story for UUs based on science.



In the coming weeks we will explore with students, in a fun way, other difficult concepts such as belief and skepticism, using episodes from *The Simpsons* television series as a spring-board.

Now that our congregational year is fully underway, members of the Fellowship should look forward to "Stories for All Ages" read by our students, food collections by our students on the third Sunday of each month for the Food Pantry and quarterly Festivals for all members of the Fellowship to raise money for important causes identified by our students. The first festival will be a Fall Festival on November 6 immediately following the service in the UUFSA back yard. See you there!!

For more information about the UUFSA's Program for Children and Youth, contact Barbara Battelle (Battellebarbara@gmail.com) for Jindy Gelow (Jindyms@yahoo.com).

UUFSA Adult Learning 2022-23

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Sessions 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

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, Richard Lahey and Surindar Paracer

potluck

Potluck Picnic

October 2, right after the service!

In the UUFSA backyard

Please bring a dish of your choice and join us for feast and friendship.

**Show your UUFSA pride in style with our new,
exclusive UUFSA Tee Shirts!**



These unisex shirts are available in sizes for the whole family (Youth Small – Adult XXXL). Orders will be taken through October 23 and the shirts should be delivered in time for holiday gifts! There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary or contact Maureen Herth if you want to order by phone, 904-463-1032. Cost is \$25 per shirt and the payment is due before we can place your order.

The shirts are 100% soft, organic cotton and are made with natural pigment dyes. They are manufactured in Honduras by Comfort Colors, a company committed to treating its employees with dignity (fair wages, free on-site medical clinics for the employees and families, parental leave, free transportation, subsidized meals).

Dining With Dignity

Sunday, October 2

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 Maureen Herth at jminherth@aol.com.



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 Anne Wilke Cynthia McAuliffe Pat Hall



St. Johns Food Pantry

(AKA St. Johns Ecumenical Ministries Inc.)



The Saint Johns Food Pantry is as busy as ever, operating at capacity for two years now. Your generous food donations during the August UUFSA food collection went far in helping us stock our shelves for food distribution. Thanks, everyone!

Due to health concerns, I must now resign as chairperson of the UUFSA Food Pantry Team. The Social Action Committee is seeking two people for the position of UU team leader/co-chair. This involves representing UUFSA on the Food Pantry Board and filling the role of Team Leader for the UUFSA food pantry team. So please check out volunteer opportunities at the pantry. Volunteering allows you to share our work, know our team members, and then consider whether project leadership is for you. For more information, contact Pat Maguire at maquire-p@hotmail.com or 505- 879-1868 or Cal Marshall at calmarshall@hotmail.com or 505-879-1869.

To make a cash donation to the food pantry, please send a check to UUFSA, with notation on the memo line: "Food Pantry." Bring or mail your check to UUFSA, 2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32080. You also can go to the UUFSA website to donate online. Thank you very much for your support.

Thank you for this opportunity for service.

Chris Fosaaen

Great Decisions

"Refugees and the Great Migration"

October 17, 6:00 p.m.

The Great Decisions group, which meets monthly to discuss foreign affairs, will resume meeting on Monday, October 17. Chuck Chambers will be host this year, taking over from Jo McIntyre. Please email Chuck at JohnChuck1@yahoo.com to verify that you are on the mailing list or to be added to the mailing list. For the time being, the meetings will be on Zoom only. People who have indicated an interest will be sent the information to join the meeting. Our long-time member, Matilda, will be presenting "Refugees and the Great Migration" this month. Meetings typically last one hour. It is stimulating discussion about serious subjects. Please send your notice of interest to Chuck if you want to be included.

UUFSA October Calendar



- 2 – Food drop-off for Dining with Dignity 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- 2 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 3 – Program Team 5:00 p.m.
- 6 – Motion is Lotion 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- 6 – Adult Learning 6:00 – 7:30
- 7 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 10 – Board of Trustees meeting, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- 13 – Motion is Lotion 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- 14 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 16 – Third Sunday food collection at start of service
- 16 – Collection plate to Wildflower Clinic
- 17 – Great Decisions 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 20 – Motion is Lotion 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- 20 – Adult Learning 6:00 – 7:30
- 21 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 21 – Deadline for November Quest contributions 5:00 p.m.
- 27 – Motion is Lotion 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
- 28 – 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.

Having plans sounds like a good idea until you have to put on clothes and leave the house.

My wife and I were happy for twenty years; then we met.

What did the cannibal's wife do when her husband came home an hour late for dinner? She gave him the cold shoulder.

You're not completely useless. You can always serve as a bad example!

What kind of car runs on leaves? An autumn-mobile!

A husband and wife go to a counselor after 15 years of marriage. The counselor asks them what the problem is. The wife goes into a tirade, listing every problem they have ever had in the 15 years they've been married. She goes on and on and on. Finally, the counselor gets up, goes around the desk, embraces the woman and kisses her passionately. The woman shuts up and sits quietly in a daze. The counselor turns to the husband and says: "That is what your wife needs at least three times a week. Can you do that?" The husband thinks for a moment and replies: "Well, I can get her here Monday and Wednesday; but Friday, I play golf."