

QUEST



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

November 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 December issue are due by November 18.

(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,

This month's letter is really a report from the front. On October 20th, I represented you in the field where the battle for human dignity still wages. Seventy-five strong, we gathered at the Visitor's Information Center downtown. Thankfully, our mission was peaceful: to unveil a marker commemorating the lynching of the Black farmer, Isaac Barrett, in St. John's County, in 1897. It is a history some want to forget. The first marker, created four years ago, was stolen before it could be unveiled. The creators, in tears that their efforts were in vain, did not give up.

Today, in a beautiful ceremony, these same people shed more tears, tears of sorrow and joy. After 125 years, an injustice was recognized by the community in which it was perpetrated. The marker is handsomely designed, the setting is well-landscaped, security cameras are turned on, and a sense of dignity is palpable. There is a stone bench where a viewer may reflect after reading the marker and the plaque contextualizing it.

The speakers, those whose dedicated, courageous efforts had seen this project through, included Gayle Phillips, Mary Cobb, and Trish Becker. The Mayor spoke and also recognized the many City employees who had helped create the marker and its setting. A Black poet recited two powerfully moving works which told of her years growing up under Jim Crow. Through her words, and the sound of her voice, she vividly portrayed her fears and those of her mother. How her mother had tried to keep her safe, to keep her alive. Her words plumbed spaces in the heart yet unreached by the speakers who recounted the wrenching history of this event. They prepared us, too, for the words of the Black Pastor Rev. Ron Rawls quoted in closing: "Commemoration without continuation is an abomination."

Yes, I am proud to say UUFSA was cited in the program as one of the event's Community Partners. I am also proud to say that our congregation is in the process of exploring an 8th Principle that directly challenges us to dismantle the racism and oppression that continues today in our culture and in our institutions. Let us, as a faith community, rooted in compassion, make every effort to understand the embedded persistence of this disease. Let the marker that cites its past expression remind us that we have the power to change the course of history while we yet breathe. We are UUs, of a faith where the breath of life inspires us to work for social justice. Sharing and caring we twine ever stronger our thread in life's interdependent web to weave a meaningful existence.

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.

November 6: Gina Jonas, gina.jonas@gmail.com

November 13: Nana Royer, nanaroyer@gmail.com

November 20: Gina Jonas, gina.jonas@gmail.com

November 27: Robin Mahonen, RRafael2@aol.com

Coffee Hour

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, November 6, 10:00 a.m.
“8th Principle Video Presentation”
Bruce Pollack-Johnson

Service Leader: Gina Jonas
Music: Barbara Joy Plattner
Story for All Ages

Bruce Pollack-Johnson, co-author of the 8th Principle, gives its history and background at a service for UUs of Southern Delaware in February of 2022.

Bruce Pollack-Jackson is a professor of mathematics and statistics at Villanova University. He is the president of the Unitarian Universalists of Mt. Airy in Philadelphia.



Sunday, November 13, 10:00 a.m.
"Of Flow and Fight"
Pastor Phillip Baber

Service Leader: Nana Royer
Music: Alex Richman
This I Believe: David Perkins

In this sermon, we will consider the wisdom of contrasting models of Eastern and Western spirituality vis-à-vis the question of “right-living.”

Phillip Baber 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, November 20, 10:00 a.m.

“Deep Wells”

Pastor Phillip Baber

Service Leader: Gina Jonas

Music: Barbara Joy Plattner

Third Sunday: "Listening and Talking with Heart": Gina Jonas

Collection Plate: Home Again St. Johns

Third Sunday Food Collection

In this sermon we will ask: What makes Unitarian Universalism a unique faith tradition? And what is the nature of the spiritual waters we are attempting to reach?

Sunday, November 27, 10:00 a.m.

**“Indigenous Thanksgiving and
Forgiveness for Our Ancestors”**

AyoLane Halusky

Service Leader: Robin Mahonen

Music: Alex Richman

Green Minute: Robin Mahonen

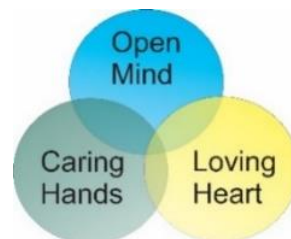
Unitarian Universalists often feel a quandary about this national holiday. On the one hand, we want to celebrate gratitude to the earth for our many blessings; however, we also know that the first "Thanksgiving" was anything but the myth we tell to school children. Our Speaker explores this contradiction.

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



Programs for Children and Youth

Jindy Gelow and Barbara Battelle



This past month, our young people continued their exploration of **“Riddles and Mysteries”** by considering the difference between an “answering religion” - *the Congregation of the Awesome Answer*, and a “questioning religion” - *The Congregation of the Quantum Question* - and where Unitarian Universalism should be placed on a continuum between the two. Using an episode of *The Simpsons* they also explored the difference between belief and skepticism.

With autumn approaching, our students have begun to explore the origins and importance of autumn’s celebrations. They considered the evolution of the celebrations of Halloween, All Souls Day, the Day of the Dead and All Hallows Eve from the Celtic celebration of Samhain, the origins of Trick-or-Treating and of Jack O’ Lanterns. The young people also carved their own Jack O’ Lanterns. At this writing, our students look forward to making decorations to help celebrate the “Day of the Dead” in the sanctuary and to enacting their own Halloween celebration in the back yard. Look for interesting new visitors to our sanctuary on October 30.



Our students are planning a **Fall Festival** for everyone in the Fellowship on **November 13** after our regular Sunday service. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

Our UUFSA *Enchanting Activists* invite you to a

Fall Festival

November 13, after service in our backyard
To benefit S.A.F.E. Pest Rescue

Entrance fee:

A small monetary donation to S.A.F.E.

Gently used items for the S.A.F.E. retail store

Bleach, trash bags, hand sanitizer, antibacterial wipes, dish soap

There will be:

Drinks, Snacks, Entertainment

A chance to win a center piece for your Thanksgiving table
created by our students



The opportunity to help decorate a Grateful Tree



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

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



The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center

Thanksgiving Program: Grateful Gathering November 23 - 27, 2022

Invite family and friends to gather at The Mountain to share time together where no one needs to host or be responsible for the Thanksgiving meals. We can enjoy connecting with old and new friends, be immersed in nature, and make new discoveries about ourselves and our world.

The youth program includes activities related to gratitude and resilience, as well as nature-based explorations.

Join us for this long weekend which includes workshops, entertainment, hiking, building connections, worship service, and outdoor adventures. We will be joined by a group of Maskoke peoples, offering workshops about Indigenous life and communities. We look forward to you being part of this Mountain experience!

Songwriting Retreat Friction Farm - Christine Stay and Aidan Quinn December 1 - 4, 2022

We will work on the art and craft of songwriting together. This small group can be tailored to your specific needs and wants, for beginners and experienced. Aidan and Christine can help focus your ideas about a song, assist in crafting music that supports your words, or guide you down a path of songwriting with prompts and ideas. Mentoring will be done one-on-one and in small groups.

For more information: see [Mountain Events](#) or call 828.526.5838

Motion is Lotion

Thursdays 10:45 a.m.

Starting October 27 at 10:45 a.m., Motion is Lotion is beginning another 8 weeks of Active Isolated Assisted Stretch. You will need water, a mat or towel for floor work, and comfortable clothes. Shoes are optional. Cost is \$10.00 per session or 8 sessions for \$60. Please call or text Priscilla 904 347-7497 for questions or concerns. No session will be held on Thanksgiving, so dates are up to Dec.22

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



Dining With Dignity Sunday, November 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.



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



Thanks go out to our new UU volunteers who are helping to staff the Food Pantry on Friday afternoons. The UU team is now seeking to fill the position of UU team leader/co-chair. This involves representing UU on the Food Pantry Board and filling the role of Team Leader for the UU 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 (505) 879-1868.

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. Donations can also be made online at uufsa.org. Thank you very much for your support.

Thank you for supporting the Food Pantry.

Chris Fosaaen

Great Decisions "Putin's Russia" Louis Post November 21, 6:00 p.m.

Great Decisions, a monthly seminar on topics set by the Foreign Policy Association nationwide but presented locally, will hold its next St Augustine meeting on November 21st at 6:00 pm. We are presenting via Zoom. The November presentation will be "Putin's Russia". We will be led by Louis Post, a most informed speaker on the issues. If you would like to participate, contact Chuck Chambers, JohnChuck1@yahoo.com. He can provide a copy of the article we will be discussing and the Zoom login. The December presentation will be on December 21st by Surindar Paracer.



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.

UUFSA is a non-prophet organization.

The half glass of water:

The pessimist says it's half empty.

The optimist says it's half full.

The engineer says it has underutilized capacity.

Why is "a partial deck above a ship's main afterdeck" named the poop deck? Did the sailors above do something to the sailors below?

My wife says I don't listen to her – or something like that.

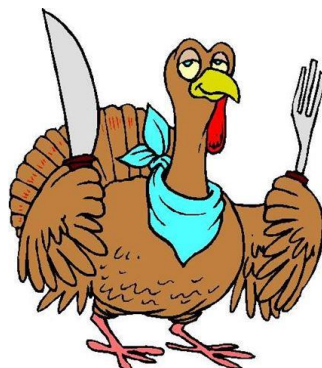
I'm not arguing – I'm just explaining why I'm right!

Bob pulled up a stool at his favorite bar and announced, "My wife Suzie must love me more than any woman has ever loved any man!" "What makes you say that?" the bartender inquired. "Last week," Bob explained, "I had to leave town on business for a week. Suzie was so thrilled to have me back home that every time the milkman, the postman, the paperboy, the UPS man, and several of the neighborhood guys came by, she'd run down the driveway, waving her arms and hollering, "My husband's home! My husband's home!"

Did you know that in the Canary Islands there are no canaries? Did you know that in the Virgin Islands there are also no canaries?

I finally broke the habit of combing my hair that wasn't there.

Visiting a college campus, the prospective student spots a building called Hemingway Hall. "That's nice," he says, "a building named for Ernest Hemingway." "Actually," says the tour guide, "it's named for Joshua Hemingway." "Was he a writer?" the student asks. "Yes. He wrote a big check."



UUFSA November Calendar



- 3 – Motion is Lotion 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.
- 3 – Adult Learning 6:00 – 7:30
- 4 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 6 – Food drop-off for Dining with Dignity 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- 6 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 7 – Program Team 5:00 p.m.
- 10 – Motion is Lotion 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.
- 11 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 14 – Board of Trustees meeting, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- 17 – Motion is Lotion 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.
- 17 – Adult Learning 6:00 – 7:30
- 18 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 18 – Deadline for December Quest contributions 5:00 p.m.
- 20 – Third Sunday food collection at start of service
- 20 – Collection plate to Home Again St. Johns
- 21 – Great Decisions 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 25 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

