

QUEST



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

December 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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December

The *Quest* is published monthly September through July.

Materials for the January issue are due by December 16.

Don Brandes, Editor: donaldbrandes@gmail.com

Thanks to Michael Read for proofreading.

From Your President



Dear Members and Friends,

On November 17th, it was my honor to represent the UUFSA at the St. Augustine Interfaith Community's annual Thanksgiving service. Near its end, I offered the "Prayer over Giving:"

"It is my honor to represent the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine, and to offer the Prayer over Giving at this service. In my understanding, a prayer expresses a heartfelt desire, often spurred by a difficult reality. It is offered sincerely and humbly, with the hope it will be heard and answered.

Tonight, this prayer expresses our desire, as loving, caring human beings, to help those in our community without the money to obtain the basic necessity of food. We have responded to our desire to help; in the way of our culture, we have given charity.

While we sincerely hope our donations will help, we know they are not enough. Knowing that no matter the size of our donation, it will not be enough, my prayer also addresses another reality. That reality is our need, as compassionate, moral human beings, to hear the call of our prophets, the voices of those who call out for justice.

This call resounds in the Jewish tradition known as "Tzedakah." Although it is translated in English as "charity," in Judaism, giving to those in need departs from the Western understanding of "charity" as a voluntary act of generosity. In Judaism, giving to those in need is a religious and ethical obligation. That is because Tzedakah derives from another Hebrew word, "Tzedek," meaning "righteousness" or "justice." Thus, Tzedakah is an obligation to do what is right and just.

Yet, neither of these culturally approved forms of giving sufficiently addresses society's ongoing problems of hunger and poverty. Neither giving as a voluntary act of generosity, nor as an ethical, religious obligation wakes us to the need hiding in plain sight; that is, the need to change society's existing structures—economic, political, and cultural. These structures that unite us also divide us: maintaining some in comfort, the haves, and maintaining others in dire straits, the have nots.

Thus, my prayer concludes by encouraging you to go deeper than your wallet—to face the reality of hunger and poverty at the structural level. I call on you as moral and compassionate human beings, to awaken to the larger picture and, with the energy of awakening, to step boldly into a broader field of possibility. Let us be joyous in finding a mission truly worthy of our humanity, a mission truly in service to our most cherished hope for human thriving. May we always grow in wisdom and the courage to translate our hope into action."

In the warmth of fellowship,

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



Sunday Programs

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.

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

December 11: Chris McDermott, mcnoodle55@gmail.com

December 18: Margaret Nicholson, send2me@bellsouth.net

December 25: No service

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, December 4, 10:00 a.m.
"Beasts of Land, Sea and Air"
Bella Costa String Quartet

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

The Quartet will perform two excerpts from Camille Saint-Saëns *Carnival of the Animals*, "The Elephant" and "The Swan." They will also perform Haydn's "The Lark" and a contemporary piece titled "Whales Weep,"

The Bella Costa String Quartet comprises members past and present of the St. Augustine Orchestra: Patti Coleman and Rebecca Simpson co-concertmasters, Heather Turvey, principal violist and Alexander Lynn, cellist. Formed in the summer of 2018, the Bella Costa String Quartet has performed together at SAO concerts, galas, weddings and charity fundraisers. They are very pleased to be presenting their fourth program to the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine!



Sunday, December 11, 10:00 a.m.
**"Getting Our Priorities Straight:
Humanities and the Art of Living"**
Dr. Jeffrey Nall

Service Leader: Chris McDermott
Music: Alex Richman
This I Believe: Chris McDermott



The humanities continue to be undermined by funding cuts and demands to center education on strictly defined workplace roles. In this talk, Jeffrey Nall, Ph.D., draws on his experience as a high school dropout turned humanities professor to argue that the humanities offer college students and lifelong learners invaluable lessons in the art of living well. Great works of performing, visual, and language arts fortify us, spiritually and morally. They help us to recognize the too often overlooked distinction between the means and ends of life—the difference between the secular and the sacred.

Sunday, December 18, 10:00 a.m.

“Experimental Art and Writing:

The Spiritual Quest”

Christy Sheffield Sanford

Service Leader: Margaret Nicolson

Music: Barbara Joy Plattner

Third Sunday Food Collection

"Listening and Talking with Heart": Gina Jonas

Collection Plate: Wildflower Clinic

Artist-writer Christy Sanford was born in Atlanta and now lives in St. Augustine. She has won a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Poetry and Florida Arts Recognition Grants. She holds an MA in Creative Writing and Interarts from Antioch University. Sanford was the first Virtual Writer-in-Residence for trAce, an electronic literature site formerly housed at Nottingham Trent University. She has written many books including *Only the Nude Can Redeem the Landscape*, *The Cowrie Shell Piece (Baroque and Rococo Strains)*, and *The Italian Smoking Piece*. Her videos, published by electronic magazines, are available on Vimeo. Sanford's digital works including "Red Mona" will be archived at Washington State University.



Christy was lured into the UU fold when she attended a singles group, called 20s-30s, that met monthly in an Atlanta art gallery. She met Malcolm Sanford, her husband of 30 years, through the Cliff Valley congregation.

Sanford is a pioneer in hybrid genres, web-specific art and writing, and interdisciplinary work. She will read brief passages to trace how art and writing became a spiritual quest, show images from various pieces, and screen a short video from the Pam-Jam collaboration *Birds of a Feather*.

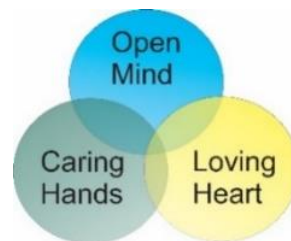
Sunday, December 25

No service will be held.

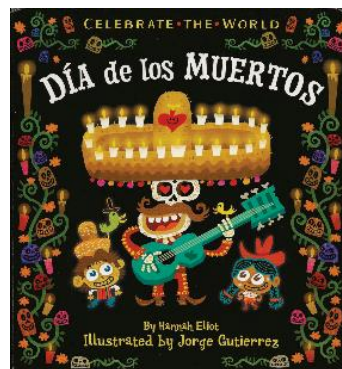


Programs for Children and Youth

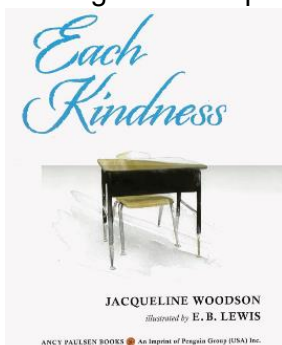
Jindy Gelow and Barbara Battelle



At the end of October, our students created wonderful decorations of flowers and masks for our congregation's Day of the Dead celebration. Thank you to **Robin Mahonen** for guiding this activity! They also recorded the story *Día de los Muertos*, which was presented in the sanctuary during the Day of the Dead celebration.



While the adults in the Fellowship celebrated the Day of the Dead in the sanctuary, the young people celebrated Halloween in the UU's backyard with games and prizes and hula-hoops.



In early December, the young people will remind all of us of the importance of kindness with their reading of *Each Kindness*.

Our students hosted their **Fall Festival** on November 20 after the Service. Our young people provided entertainment, and there were cookies, drinks, and conversation. During this Festival our young people collected donations for S.A.F.E, a no kill animal shelter. In collaboration with Cal Marshall, they had created a Thanksgiving centerpiece that was raffled to benefit S.A.F.E., and members were invited to add a leaf to a Gratefulness Tree that will be in the sanctuary the Sunday after Thanksgiving. This was a wonderful way to usher in the Holiday Season!!



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

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

Dining With Dignity Volunteer Opportunity Food Preparation, not serving

Margaret (Peggy) Nicholson

Will you participate by preparing a dish or contributing food items, please?

Our UUFSA Dining with Dignity group, for the first time any of us can remember, ran out of food on November 6th. There are enough people to serve the meal. We are hoping to find more people who desire to be on the request for food email list. You are not obligated to contribute every month. Some food takes time to prepare (e.g., turkey-chili, rice) and has to be packed to stay warm, while other items (e.g., bananas or other soft fruit), simply cost money and a trip to the store.



Preparation/contribution of foods is not necessarily linked to the serving of the meal. My wonderful grandson Noah never brings food, but serves every month. Others, such as Pat Taruski and Rachel Goodkind, prepare food but don't serve. They don't drive downtown – they drop off their contributions to me. Others do deliver to the site, but don't stay. If you prefer, we can find someone for you to give your donation to. You don't have to be a member of the UUFSA to participate. Our group includes family, friends, and neighbors such as Pat and Rachel.

More Information about DWD

Home Again St Johns facilitates the Dining with Dignity meal program in St Augustine. Approximately forty faith and community groups take full responsibility for preparing and serving a hot meal for anyone who arrives at the parking lot at Bridge & Granada Streets at 6:00 p.m. every night, including weekends and holidays. The UUFSA prepares and serves a meal on the first Sunday of every month. The number has recently expanded from approximately sixty-five to eighty-five, mostly men, some women, and a few children. The number varies depending on the time of year, local weather conditions, and other factors such as people coming south during winter.

HOW IT WORKS: Mary Kellough, coordinator for the UU's first Sunday meal, sends an email two weeks in advance. The menu lists the types of food and amount of servings, along with drinks needed and take-aways. A person chooses what they want to prepare or contribute and uses reply all so others know what's off the list. As the days go by, Mary (or one of her loyal helpers) fills in the menu and resends it until all items are accounted for.

To be added to the DWD list, send an email to:

Mary <LKellough@comcast.net> (L is correct, not M)

For more information or to plan a drop-off, call: 904 797-6022 or email:

send2me@bellsouth.net Margaret (Peggy) Nicholson

Motion is Lotion

Thursdays at 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



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.

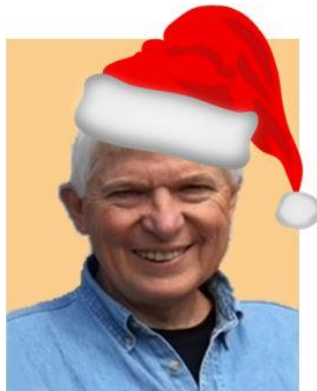
To make a cash donation to the food pantry, please send a check to UUFSA, with notation on the memo line: "Food Pantry." Bring or mail your check to UUFSA, 2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32080. Donations can also be made online at uufsa.org. Thank you very much for your support.

Thank you for supporting the Food Pantry.

Chris Fosaaen

Great Decisions Will not meet in December.

Great Decisions is a monthly seminar on topics set by the Foreign Policy Association nationwide but presented locally. If you would like to participate, contact Chuck Chambers, JohnChuck1@yahoo.com. He can provide a copy of the article to be discussed and the Zoom login.





UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PITTSBURGH • JUNE 21 - 25, 2023

General Assembly

Join us June 21 - 25, 2023 online or in-person in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

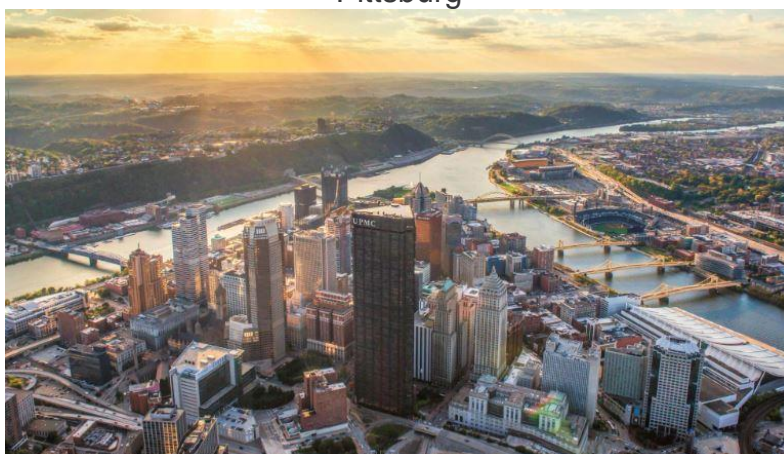
General Assembly is the annual gathering of Unitarian Universalists, where we conduct business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean fully into our mission and principles. Please join us Wednesday, June 21 through Sunday, June 25, 2023 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and/or online for this 5-day immersive experience where we participate in inspirational worship services and informative workshops, reconvene with friends and colleagues, and explore our bustling exhibit hall. GA is an unforgettable experience for the thousands of UUs who attend. Meet us online or in Pittsburgh and you'll leave with renewed energy and innovative ideas to share with your congregation and community-at-large!

General Assembly 2023 will be a multiplatform event, with registration options for in-person and/or virtual participation. In-person registration includes access to events scheduled to take place in Pittsburgh, as well as everything available to virtual registrants. Full virtual registration includes access to the GA app, as well as all on-demand programming, live webinars, and live-streamed events.

Registration is available at [UUA.org/GA](https://uua.org/GA). Register before March 1 for the lowest rate. Rates will increase on March 1 and again on May 1.

For more information contact generalassembly@uua.org.

Pittsburg





The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center

For information about programs see [Mountain Events](#) or call 828.526.5838

UUFSA December Calendar



- 1 – Motion is Lotion 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.
- 2 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 2 – 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 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.
- 8 – Adult Learning 6:00 – 7:30
- 9 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 12 – Board of Trustees meeting, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- 15 – Motion is Lotion 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.
- 16 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 16 – Deadline for January 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 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.
- 23 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 30 – 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.

Michael would like to thank members who have contributed to this column. He has received highly appreciative responses in person and by email. Since contributors remain anonymous, don't be shy to send Michael a joke or two!

Of course I talk to myself. Sometimes I need expert advice.

I decided I should write my memoirs before I got any older. Then I realized it was already too late. What I remember would only fill a page or two.

They have just found the gene for shyness. They would have found it earlier, but it was hiding between two other genes.

Ontology as expressed by the prophet Samuel: That which is hath been already, and everything to be hath already been.

How much did the pirate pay to get his ears pierced? A buccaneer!

What's the Bill of Rights? The dollar.

I wasn't going to visit my family this December, but my mom promised to make me Eggs Benedict. So I'm going home for the hollandaise.

Don't irritate elderly people. The older we get, the less "Life in prison" is a deterrent.

