

# QUEST



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

**February 2023**  
**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 2022 - 2023**

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The *Quest* is published monthly September through July.

**Materials for the March issue are due by February 20.**

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

Thanks to Michael Read for proofreading.





## From Your President

As Black History month begins, please know the newly revived Social Justice Team has chosen to focus on racism. As a “remedial” student of this topic, one largely ignored in my formal education, I welcome the opportunity to learn more. Sadly, my need to catch up may be echoed by today’s students as they experience ‘official’ efforts to suppress African American history.

What I have already learned, though, impels me to join others to oppose and remedy the egregious effects of chattel slavery. While I did not create this “peculiar institution,” or may not personally or directly discriminate, I live in a society that arose in its wake. Its entrenched laws, institutions, attitudes, and beliefs continue to subvert black individual and community efforts to thrive, continue to make fear and danger everyday realities for our fellow humans.

Why should I care? After all, I’m white, with all the material and medical necessities I could wish for. Nonetheless, my bubble of well-being burst four years ago when I joined the Community Conversation at United Grace Methodist Church. There, white Rev. David Williamson, with black Pastor Ron Rawls, held conversations across racial and other differences. There, they created an atmosphere of safety and trust using Visions, Inc.—a conceptual framework-plus-communications training program. Instructed not to blame or shame each other, or ourselves, we listened to stories of discrimination and lack of respect. As truths were shared, compassion awakened and fueled our desire to create a better world.

Of course, this aligned with the purpose of the training: to develop local multicultural change agents. Indeed, one of the attendees, then Commissioner Nancy Sikes-Kline, is now mayor! Admittedly, without a leadership position, I felt a little out of place, while I also knew that I needed to be there. Fast forward. As current president of the UUFSA, my passion for justice feels like an integral part of my Unitarian Universalist belief in our Seven Principles and Spoken Covenant (“Love is the doctrine of this congregation...”).

As the numbing effect of ignorance recedes, as complacency turns to vital concern, my fervent desire to address racial inequity and injustice spurs me to action. It’s surfaced in educational films, panel discussions, and a facilitated conversation; most recently, in beginning a book discussion group. And the possibility of more direct action is on its way as I attend local community groups. The words of Martin Luther King, quoted by the black theologian at the start of his essay, “Theology’s Great Sin: Silence in the Face of White Supremacy,” read: “We will have to repent... not merely for the vitriolic words and actions of the bad people but for the appalling silence of the good people.”

Please contact me to share any ideas about how we, as a UU congregation, may break the silence; or, to find out more about the next meeting of our book discussion group, February 11th.

In the warmth of fellowship,

**Gina**

**904-679-4610**  
[gina.jonas@gmail.com](mailto: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.

February 5: Gina Jonas, [gina.jonas@gmail.com](mailto:gina.jonas@gmail.com)

February 12: Rachel Cross, [rachelcrossart@gmail.com](mailto:rachelcrossart@gmail.com)

February 19: Gina Jonas, [gina.jonas@gmail.com](mailto:gina.jonas@gmail.com)

February 26: Nana Royer, [nanaroyer@gmail.com](mailto:nanaroyer@gmail.com)

## UUFSA Sunday Service Team Meeting February 13 5:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held on Zoom.

Contact Robin Mahonen, [RRafael2@aol.com](mailto:RRafael2@aol.com), for login details.

# **Sunday, February 5**

## **“The Conscience of Democracy”**

### **Dr. Mark Yount**

Service Leader: Chris McDermott

Music: Barbara Joy Plattner



There is a contradiction in our Fifth UU Principle. It is the “right of conscience” to insist on its truth no matter how unpopular. But when we affirm “use of the democratic process,” we agree to submit to majority rule even when we are the outvoted minority. We will explore how this tension could prove productive and offer an inspiring perspective in our turbulent times. Our UU tradition has bravely trumpeted conscience and plied our movement to the arc of justice. Could democracy now be calling us to reach out to the very neighbors with whom we conscientiously disagree? How can we do that and still heed the conscience of democracy: the “self-evident” truths by which a revolutionary nation proclaimed its birth?

Dr. Mark Yount has degrees in philosophy, including a B.A. from William and Mary, M.A from Villanova, and PhD from University of Colorado at Boulder.

# **Sunday, February 12, 10:00 a.m.**

## **“bell hooks Labors of Love: Critical Thinking and Courageous Conversation”**

### **Jeffrey Nall, Ph.D.**

Service Leader: Rachel Cross

Music: Barbara Joy Plattner

This I Believe: Fred Dolgin



Jeffrey Nall, Ph.D., teaches philosophy and humanities courses for Indian River State College and the University of Central Florida. Nall also teaches courses in Florida Atlantic University’s Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department. He hosts a Substack newsletter, “Humanities in Revolt,” which can be found at [JeffreyNall.substack.com](https://JeffreyNall.substack.com)

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

**"The Greatest Love of All"**

**Rudy Jamison, Ed.D.**

Service Leader: Gina Jonas

Music: Alex Richman

"Listen and Talk with Heart"

Food Collection for Food Pantry

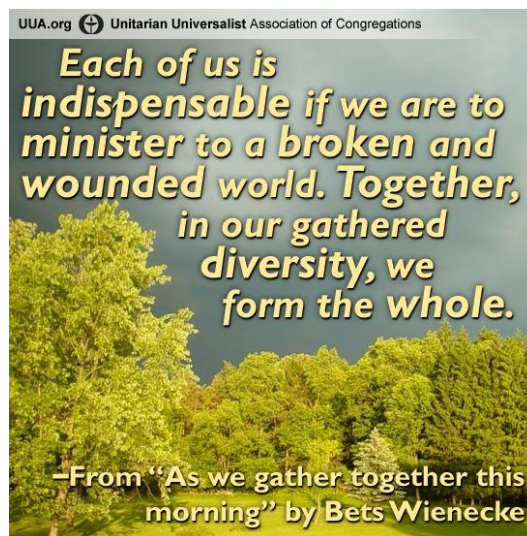
Cash Plate Donation to Home Again St. Johns



The greatest love of all is learning to love. There is love of children, love of self, love of God, and love of a partner. All of them have different shapes, but all of them are the same in the end. It's about sensitivity, it's about passion, and it is about unconditional giving of self to another person. In today's socio-political climate, learning to love is essential. If we are to realize the dreams of this experiment we call America, love must take center stage to all of our performances.

Bio: Rudy F. Jamison Jr., Ed.D., is a native of Jacksonville, FL and currently serves as the Director for University of North Florida's Institute for the Study of Race & Ethnic Relations, as well as the Urban Education Scholars Program. Rudy's professional career is not what he does, it is who he is. Rudy believes that everyone

wants to matter, to learn, to contribute, and to be recognized, and it is our responsibility to make sure that this happens for ourselves and for others.





**Sunday, February 26, 10:00 a.m.**  
**“Caring, Sharing, and Building a Better World”**  
**Susan W. Herrera, Ph.D.**

Service Leader: Nana Royer  
Music: Barbara Joy Plattner  
Green Minute

This presentation will discuss the importance of curiosity, caring and communication to build a better world. The science of intercultural communication helps us understand the basics of culture and how cultural values, beliefs and attitudes shape the way people communicate. When people from different cultures communicate, they bring their own cultural contexts to the conversation often leading to miscommunication and misunderstanding. This presentation will discuss how we can learn to become better communicators across cultures to build a better and kinder world.



Dr. Susan Herrera is a Visiting Lecturer at Flagler College, and the owner of Culture Sense International, a company specializing in Intercultural Communication, Language Training and Consulting, and Amistad, an online fair-trade retail store. Throughout her career, Dr. Herrera has worked to help people understand how to communicate effectively and conscientiously across cultures, to create a kinder and more sustainable world.

Dr. Herrera earned her Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration, from the University of Florida, specializing in Intercultural Education and English for Speakers of Other Languages. She holds a master's degree in Education from National Louis University, and a BA in Foreign Language/Latin American Studies and Mass Communications Media from American University.

Dr. Herrera was raised in Chile from the age of 6 months until 17, as the daughter of an American copper mining executive. She recently published a book that chronicles her experience growing up in Chile - Daughter of Copper, a Memoir of Love, Loss, and Identity, Growing up on Borrowed Land. There will be a book signing on February 28<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 pm at the Wendy Tatter Gallery.





# Save the Date



## Saturday, April 1st



## UUFSA Spring Gala



Let's put the fun  
back in fundraising!

Details to follow

Volunteers needed

Contact Maureen Herth

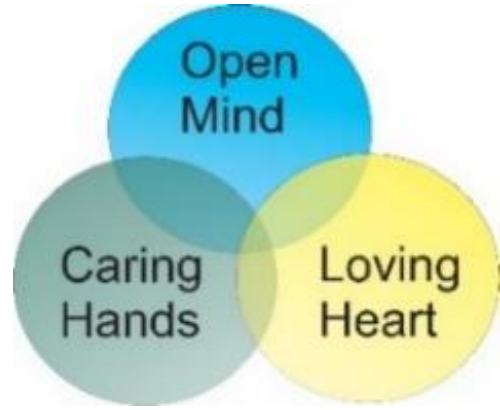
904-463-1032



# Programs for Children and Youth

*Jindy Gelow and Barbara Battelle*

The new year has begun, and we look forward in February to resuming the “Story for All Ages” on the first Sunday of each month, Family Chalice Lighting on the Fourth Sunday and to continuing the third Sunday Food Collection.



In their classes, our older students continue learning from the Riddles and Mysteries Curriculum from the UUA’s Tapestry of Faith. Most recently they addressed the very big question “Does God Exist?” Coming classes will address equally challenging questions and issues such as: “How did life begin?” and “Thinking of Death”. In keeping with UU tradition and philosophy, we focus on the questions. The lesson is designed to help students explore in different ways their own answers to the questions.

Some of our students are also eager to plan their own classes on topics of their own choosing. This will be exciting!

While our older students explore Riddles and Mysteries with Jindy or Barbara, younger students can explore their own interests and questions through creative play with Ayler.

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



# UUFSA Adult Learning 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.

### The Myth of the Frontier Won't Die

*"In our popular culture and in our politics, we're returning to the Old West. The strong survive and the weak surrender and differences are resolved at the end of a gun. High noon is coming, we're told. Only in this way the story be resolved. The good guy with a gun kills the bad guy with a gun."*

*The left, of course has its own myths. The Myth of Stronger Together. The Myth of Rising Tide Lifts All Boats."* Noah Hawley, *The Atlantic*. (2023)

**February 2.....Earth-Diver and Dismembered God Creation Myths  
Mesopotamian and Hebrew Flood Myths**

**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.....Places of Myths---Rocks and Lakes  
                            Places of Myths--- Mountains  
                            Places of Myths---Sacred Trees

May 18.....Myths of Cosmic Destruction

June 1.....Mesopotamian and Hebrew Flood Myths  
                            Other Flood Myths

We welcome all members and UU friends.  
Please come and join us in exploring this topic in detail.

**Jocelyn Breakwell, Series Coordinator  
Richard Lahey and Surindar Paracer**

## Dining With Dignity

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).



## Motion is Lotion Thursdays at 10:45 a.m.

"Motion is Lotion" sessions of Active Isolated Assisted Stretch will continue in February. Please call or text Priscilla 904 347-7497 for questions or concerns.

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



We still have plenty of volunteer opportunities at the pantry and would appreciate your participation. Volunteering allows you to share our work, know our team members, and get to know our clients who are most grateful for our assistance. For more information, contact Mary Kellough at 904-217-9837 or [lkellough@comcast.net](mailto:lkellough@comcast.net).

To make a cash donation to the food pantry, please bring or mail your check to UUFSA, 2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32080, or go to our website at [UUFSA.org](http://UUFSA.org).

# 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



# Great Decisions

Great Decisions, a monthly seminar on topics set by the Foreign Policy Association nationwide but presented locally, will not meet in February.

# UUFSA February Calendar



- 2 – Motion is Lotion 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.
- 2 – Adult Learning 6:00 – 7:30
- 3 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 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.
- 9 – Motion is Lotion 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.
- 10 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 13 – Program Team 5:00 p.m.
- 13 – Board of Trustees meeting, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- 16 – Adult Learning 6:00 – 7:30
- 16 – Motion is Lotion 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.
- 17 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 17 – Deadline for March *Quest* contributions 5:00 p.m.
- 19 – Third Sunday food collection at start of service
- 19 – Collection plate to Home Again St. Johns
- 23 – Motion is Lotion 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.
- 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).**

I find it ironic that the colors red, white, and blue stand for freedom, until they're flashing behind you.

A chicken coup only has two doors. If it had four, it would be a chicken sedan.

What did Blackbeard the pirate say when he turned eighty?  
"Aye, matey."

A local charity had never received a donation from the town's banker, so the director made a phone call. "Our records show you make \$10 million a year, yet you haven't given a penny to charity," the director began. "Wouldn't you like to help the community?" The banker replied, "Did your research show that my mother is ill, with extremely expensive medical bills?" "Um, no," mumbled the director. "Or that my brother is blind and unemployed? Or that my sister's husband died, leaving her broke with four kids?" "I ... I ... I had no idea." "So," said the banker, "if I don't give them any money, why would I give any to you?"



What is it you can't get enough of? I'll leave that to your discretion.



# Beyond Our Congregation



## The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center

Join us at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, a Magical Place and Experience

- [Youth CONferences](#) - **February 17-19** for Elementary grades 3-5, **March 3-5** for Intermediate grades 6-8, **March 17-19** for Senior High grades 9-12. A Youth CONference is a gathering of UU youth and advisors from congregations all over the southeast.
- [Music Week](#) – **April 23-28 2023**. Surround yourself with music and enjoy opportunities for music appreciation, concerts, group and individual participation and instruction in songwriting, guitar, voice, ukulele and more.  
*“Music Week has been transformative. When I came here, I lacked courage to really try to pursue music. In my first songwriting class here, I wasn’t finishing sentences. But, in five days here, I wrote two songs. There is something about this place – magical.” ~Renee E.*

- **Personal Retreat -- for individuals or groups**

We look forward to hosting you at The Mountain soon!

There’s still time to make an end-of-year gift to The Mountain! Click here for details:

<https://www.themountainrlc.org/giving>

For more information about The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center:

[themountainrlc.org](https://www.themountainrlc.org) or 828.526.5838



**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](mailto:generalassembly@uua.org).

Pittsburgh

