

# QUEST



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

**March 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 April issue are due by March 17.**

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

Thanks to Michael Read for proofreading.

# From Your President



I like to celebrate as much as the next person, yet I find myself ambivalent about celebrating Women's History Month. Actually, it's more a tug-of-war: is it honest to celebrate when my moral pulse raises concerns that are anything but celebratory? With the spotlight on women, as much as I'd like to "hurrah!" our achievements, I also want to shout about rape, about unequal pay, about the lack of paid day-care, about poverty and its many injustices at, yes, the 'intersection' of gender, race, and class!

To honor the unfinished work, I want to rename this month, "Stand with Women Month," and focus it on the continuing struggle for equity and freedom from fear. I want it to be a month where educators, politicians, and community leaders rededicate themselves to understanding the culture, laws, and mentality/socialization that obstructs greater, speedier progress.

Yet, I hear you asking, are you being fair, haven't we "Come a long way, Baby," as the 1968 Virginia Slims cigarette ad proclaimed? Shouldn't we celebrate the victories, the distance we've come from pedestal to pulpit, from Ladies to legislators, from kitchen to Cabinet? Maybe the current construct "both/and" should temper my temper (!), and maybe contrasting truths can coexist and I should glory in Whitman's declaration, "I am large, I contain multitudes!" Maybe.

After all, a celebration of life does not erase mourning and grief for a loved one. Again, perhaps it's a matter of perspective and paradox: the glass being both half full and half empty. Because I can't rest without also mourning the fact that women are not united in the struggle for day-to-day flourishing—that we women, within our ranks, hold opposing values about fundamental issues, about the authority underpinning/sanctioning our values, views, and actions.

This, of course, is where I call upon Unitarian Universalist values and cite our fifth Principle affirming the right of conscience. Despite being a "glass-half-full" person in general, I am called to cry out for the "glass-half-empty": the work undone. Having spilled ink as blood from my heart, I'm now ready to distill its ferment into hope, to encourage you – women and men – to speak up and out, whenever and wherever women are disrespected or harmed. Let us join together in human solidarity, compassion, and love, seeking always to support efforts that bring vitality and dignity to us all.

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.

March 5: Nana Royer, [nanaroyer@gmail.com](mailto:nanaroyer@gmail.com)

March 12: Robin Mahonen, [RRafael2@aol.com](mailto:RRafael2@aol.com)

March 19: Michael Read, [mickread@gmail.com](mailto:mickread@gmail.com)

March 26: Margaret Nicholson, [send2me@bellsouth.net](mailto:send2me@bellsouth.net)

## UUFSA Sunday Service Team Meeting

**March 6, 5:00 p.m.**

The meeting will be held on Zoom.

All members of the fellowship are welcome to attend.

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

# **Sunday, March 5**

## **“International Women’s Day: Waking Up the Other 364 Days”**

### **Patricia Maguire, Ed.D.**

Service Leader: Nana Royer  
Music: Barbara Joy Plattner

Service Leader: Nana Royer  
Music: Alex Richman



How can we re-claim the radical roots of International Women’s Day through everyday actions the other 364 days of the year? International Women’s Day was born out of a movement of working class women marching through New York in 1908 demanding shorter hours, better pay, safer working conditions, and voting rights. Its spread across Europe, Russia, and China was linked to women's struggles for *Bread and Peace*. By 1977, the UN General Assembly proclaimed a United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace. Consistent with our UU aspirational principles of justice and equity for all, how might we ordinary Unitarian-Universalists **wake up** the other 364 days of the year to work for gender justice for women, girls, and gender-fluid

people?

Professor Emeritus Patricia Maguire hosts a monthly podcast, Participatory Action Research (PAR) – Feminist Trailblazers and Good Troublemakers (<https://anchor.fm/patricia-maguire>). She talks with these trailblazers across the globe about their struggles and successes bringing intersectional feminist values and ways of being to early days of PAR. Maguire’s groundbreaking research and book, *Doing Participatory Research: A Feminist Approach* (1987) was one of the first feminist critiques of her field. For twenty-five years, Patricia was Chair of the Western New Mexico University-Gallup Graduate Studies Center (GGSC), located in Gallup, New Mexico, a border town to the Navajo Nation and Zuni Pueblo. The WNMU Gallup Center served one of the most culturally rich, linguistically diverse, yet economically poorest communities in the USA.

For more information see [www.patriciamaguire.net](http://www.patriciamaguire.net) and [www.parfemtrailblazers.net](http://www.parfemtrailblazers.net)

**Sunday, March 12, 10:00 a.m.**

**"I am because we are."**

**Christina Joy**

Service Leader: Robin Mahonen

Music: Barbara Joy Plattner

This I Believe: Maureen Herth

Ubuntu is a concept of African origin that stresses compassion, collective, empathy, and interconnectedness. In a world that feels endlessly divided, we need Ubuntu more than ever.

Christina is a St Augustine local who is a social entrepreneur and the founder of the Joy Moja. For the last decade she has dedicated her life to African studies and sustainable development, spending considerable time living and working with Tanzanian communities. Her wanderlusting soul is fueling her current project – converting a city bus into an off-grid traveling tiny home for herself and her three kitties.



**Sunday, March 19, 10:00 a.m.**  
**"Getting Our Priorities Straight:  
Humanities and the Art of Living"**  
**Jeffrey Nall, Ph.D.**

Service Leader: Michael Read

Music: Alex Richman

"Listen and Talk with Heart"

Food Collection for Food Pantry

Cash Plate Donation to Wildflower Clinic



The humanities continue to be undermined by funding cuts and demands to center education on strictly defined workplace roles. In this talk, Jeffrey Nall 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 overlooked distinction between the means and ends of life—the difference between the secular and the sacred.

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, March 26, 10:00 a.m.**  
**“First Post Suffrage Election in St. Augustine”**  
**Karen Zalkin**

Service Leader: Margaret Nicholson  
Music: Barbara Joy Plattner  
Family Chalice Lighting  
Green Minute



When Karen Zalkin heard about a Flagler County American Association of University Women (AAUW) project on suffragist Alice Scott Abbott and the women who voted in the first election for women, she wanted the answer to who were the first women in St. Augustine to vote and what challenges did they meet. As elsewhere in the country, the struggle for women's vote took place in St Augustine.

Who were the Florida suffragists? After Amendment XIX passed in June 1920, women began to register to vote. It was not an easy decision for some. Registration had its struggles.

Voting was not as intuitive as it is today. What were the forces that kept women from voting? Who were the women who voted? Were they young, older, married, single, white, Black, or employed?

Karen Zalkin's early work experience included teaching English as a second language to K-12 students and adults. At Richland Community College in Illinois, she first directed a federal program for first generation, disabled, and low-income students that supported success in college. Before moving to St. Augustine in 2007, she retired as the college's director of financial aid and veterans' affairs.

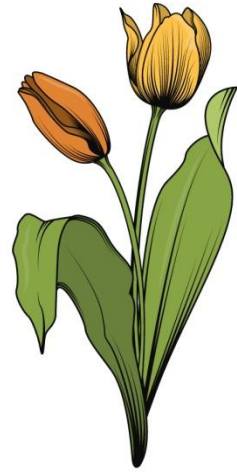
Karen has a master's degree in sociology from the University of Kansas in addition to post-grad education credits. Karen has been actively involved in genealogy for sixteen years.

The AAUW works for gender equity through research, education and advocacy. In the twenty years she has been a member, Karen has held many leadership positions with AAUW Florida and the St. Augustine Branch. Having worked as a poll worker for ten years in St Johns County and previously in Chicago, she is passionate about getting everyone to vote.





# 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

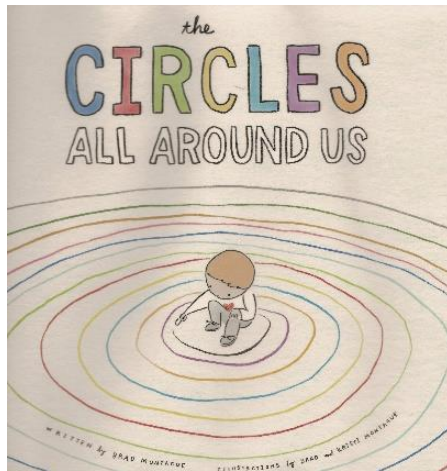
904-463-1032



# Programs for Children and Youth

*Jindy Gelow and Barbara Battelle*

On the first Sunday in February, our young people treated us to a “Story for All Ages” titled “The Circles All Around Us.” We hope you enjoyed it. If you missed it, you may find it in the archives on our website, [UUFSA.org](http://UUFSA.org). The children will continue to be involved in our services in the sanctuary for the Food Collection the third Sunday of the month and Family Chalice lighting on the Fourth Sunday.



In their classes, our students continue learning from the Riddles and Mysteries Curriculum from the UUA’s Tapestry of Faith. During this past month they addressed the very big questions: “How did life begin?” and “Thinking of Death”. In keeping with UU tradition and philosophy, we focus on the questions. The lessons are designed to help students explore in different ways their own answers to the questions. In addition, students watched an episode of “The Simpsons” in which the Lisa character went on a search for her own spiritual truth. This episode prompted great discussions.

Upcoming Bid Questions students will address are: Why do bad things happen? And is life fair? In coming weeks, they will also record the next Story for All Ages --“The Big Orange Splot.” We thank Heather Sostrom, manager of the Anastasia Island branch of the St. Johns County Library, for bringing this story and the story “The Circles All around Us” to our attention.

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.

During the month of March, we are shifting our focus to myths about gods and goddesses. Gods become more like us, each one takes on a specific function: there is a god of music, there is a god of love, there is a god of war, there is a god of hospitality, there is a god of the fertility of crops.

Because there are gods and goddesses, we have meaning, we have reason for being, we are given responsibilities by those gods, we name the animals, we guard nature; we do things they ask us to do.

In Greek mythology, Pandora opened the box that unleashed disease, suffering, and death into the world.

**March 2..... Greek and Norse Pantheons**  
**The Great Goddess Remembered**

**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**

# **Social Justice Committee Book Discussion Group Saturday, March 18th, 10:00 am**

At the UU, please join the conversation!

## **Focusing on Racial Justice, we're reading: *Soul Work: Anti-racist Theologies in Dialogue***

Published by Skinner Books, an imprint of the UUA

- What theological or philosophical beliefs bind us together in our shared struggle against racism? What are the costs of racism, for the oppressors and for the oppressed? Addressing such questions, the essays help us understand the complexity of racism, encouraging readers to reconsider long-held beliefs.
- These essays are provocative and should invite lots of stimulating conversation. If it gets crucial, we can practice our crucial conversation skills!
- Please read: "The Other Side of Route Two," or just come and sit in! You can find a link to the book online.

Questions? Please contact Gina Jonas (see your directory for contact info).

Hope to see you!



# Another UU Memorial Brick Order

We're working on updating the UU Memorial Brick area on the south side of the building. Would you like to sponsor a Memorial Brick for a UU member, friend, or family member? The text for a brick can include 4 lines, each line with a total of 21 characters (including spaces).

Most of the current bricks have

Line 1 - Name

Line 2 - Year of birth - Year of Death

Line 3 - Message

Line 4 - Message

Recent example:

Charles N. Carter

1933 – 2020

A loving, generous  
and creative soul

If possible, you pay \$25.00 for the brick. If this is not possible, don't worry. We do not want anyone left out due to costs. We will have a Memorial Event in the fall to unveil the new additions to the UU Memorial Brick area.



An FYI – we recently completed an order of 17 bricks (not yet installed) that include Elle Barry, Shannon Barry, Priscilla Caine, Charles N. Carter, Tony DeCrosta, Stephen Dupuy, Polly Edwards, Marie Lindberg, Thomas May, Janis May, Guy Reid, Gene Schepers, Isobel Siegel, Nena Vreeland, Charles W. West Jr, William Wilke, and Ron Zamora.

Email your information to Pat Maguire [maquire-p@hotmail.com](mailto:maquire-p@hotmail.com) Send your check: Attention – Barbara Battelle, UUFSA, 2487 A1A S, St Augustine FL 32080 with info in the memo line: “UU Brick – Person’s name.” If you have any questions, email Pat Maguire or call her at 505 879-1868.

DEADLINE – March 31,

## Online UUFSA Events Calendar

It is now possible to view the online Google calendar of UUFSA events and building usage from the UUFSA website by clicking on a link on the Calendar page at:

<http://www.uufsa.org/newsletter--calendar.html>

## 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 March. 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:

[Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine \(square.site\)](http://Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine (square.site))

# 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 March.



# UUFSA March 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.
- 6 – Sunday Service Team 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- 9 – Motion is Lotion 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.
- 10 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 13 – Board of Trustees meeting, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- 16 – Motion is Lotion 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.
- 16 – Adult Learning 6:00 – 7:30, p.m.
- 17 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 17 – Deadline for April *Quest* contributions 5:00 p.m.
- 18 – Social Justice Team book discussion 10:00 – 11:00 a.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.
- 30 – Motion is Lotion 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.
- 31 – 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).***

Which rock group has four guys who can't sing or play instruments? Mount Rushmore.

The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but the ability to keep one's mouth shut in any language is priceless.

Elon Musk was strolling through his office with new members of his staff. He came upon a man standing, hands in pockets, idly leaning against a wall. He seemed not to know who Musk was. Musk strode towards him and shouted: "What are you doing?" The man casually replied: "I'm just waiting around looking to get paid." Livid at this response, Musk's face turned white. He angrily asked the man: "How much do you get paid?" The man stated: "About five hundred dollars a week." Musk pulled out his check book, wrote a check for \$5,000 dollars, showed it to his staff, then gave it to the man and bellowed: "Get out! I never want to see you again!" Musk haughtily turned to his staff and asked: "What did you just observe?" At first all was quiet, then a member cleared his throat and said: "Well, we just watched you tip the pizza delivery guy \$5,000 dollars."

# Beyond Our Congregation



## The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center

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

- [Youth CONferences](#) - **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

