

# QUEST



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

**April 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 May 17.**

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

Thanks to Michael Read for proofreading.



# From Your President



Dear Members and Friends,

As the Florida legislature opens for business, I believe our faith calls us to witness and withstand whatever legislation it proposes that imperils our values. These charge us, as witnesses, to be moral watchdogs—to live by our 5th Principle, “The right of conscience and use of the democratic process within our congregation and society at large.” Thus, I urge you to condemn laws that would diminish human dignity, health, and the opportunity to thrive. And, as a member of a faith whose moral compass also directs me by its 2nd Principle, “Justice, equity, and compassion in human relation,” I will not be silent.

However, I would not rouse you with false hope in our power to defeat these bills. Because the majority of our legislators, it seems, are guided by a different compass—the compass of self-righteous power. Where they claim moral high ground, I judge otherwise, using as my magnetic pole the touchstone of love—the love of neighbor, the stranger, the poor, the love that underlies care, compassion, and respect—a love that moves us to reach out to those in need. I will lobby for this love at my computer, in the UUFSA sanctuary and beyond its walls.

Indeed, the morning after hearing a social psychology professor from UNF describe proposed legislative bills that would abolish her current Diversity, Equity and Inclusiveness (DEI) and Gender Studies courses; I wrote letters opposing these bills. But the next morning I awoke with a passion to do more. Reaching out to the co-chair of Good Trouble St. Johns, I discovered an enthusiastic partner. After conferring with her and Michael at Growers Alliance, we decided to voice our opposition through guerrilla theater and short, satiric Tik Tok videos—tactics suited to our underdog position.

In this for the long haul, we don’t lose heart at the expected passage of this session’s anti-democratic bills. Rather, we strive to empower others with hope and fortitude. By nurturing these qualities, we will persist and endure as moral agents. While the words, “to lobby” and “lobbyist” may have unsavory connotations – such as influence peddling and power wielded by the purse – I would reclaim them for my purpose. My motivating riches come from belief in the values of Unitarian Universalism. These are deep pockets. Thus, I will lobby for those values whenever and wherever I can. As one UU to all you UUs at the UUFSA – I encourage you to join me in creating corridors of power to lobby for the Principles we hold dear!

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.

April 2: Nana Royer, [nanaroyer@gmail.com](mailto:nanaroyer@gmail.com)

April 9: Chris Mc/Dermott, [mcnoodle55@gmail.com](mailto:mcnoodle55@gmail.com)

April 16: Gina Jonas, [gina.jonas@gmail.com](mailto:gina.jonas@gmail.com)

April 23: Rachel Cross, [rachelcrossart@gmail.com](mailto:rachelcrossart@gmail.com)

April 30: Margaret Nicholson, [send2me@bellsouth.net](mailto:send2me@bellsouth.net)

## UUFSA Sunday Service Team Meeting April 3, 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, April 2**

## **“Needing and Giving Care”**

### **Dr. Fred Dolgin**

Service Leader: Nana Royer  
Music: Barbara Alex Richman  
Story for All Ages

For more than 40 years I have worked as a paid professional health care provider, but that is not the type of caregiving that I plan to talk about. I will discuss caregiving by unpaid, not professionally trained or licensed people to family members and friends in need of care. This topic is relevant to our fellowship because our covenant begins with “Love is the doctrine of this congregation.” Providing care to family members and friends in need is an act of love.

Dr. Dolgin has been a board-certified family medicine physician since 1980 after completing his residency at the University of Connecticut. From 1980 until 2004, when he and his family moved to Saint Augustine, he was medical director of the Manet Community Health Center in Quincy, MA. From 2004 until he semi-retired in December of 2021, he provided primary care services at Flagler Family Medicine; Wellness in Saint Augustine. He continues to provide inpatient hospice care at the Bailey Family Center for Caring in Saint Augustine as he has done since it opened in 2011.





# **Sunday, April 9, 10:00 a.m.**

## **“New Beginnings”**

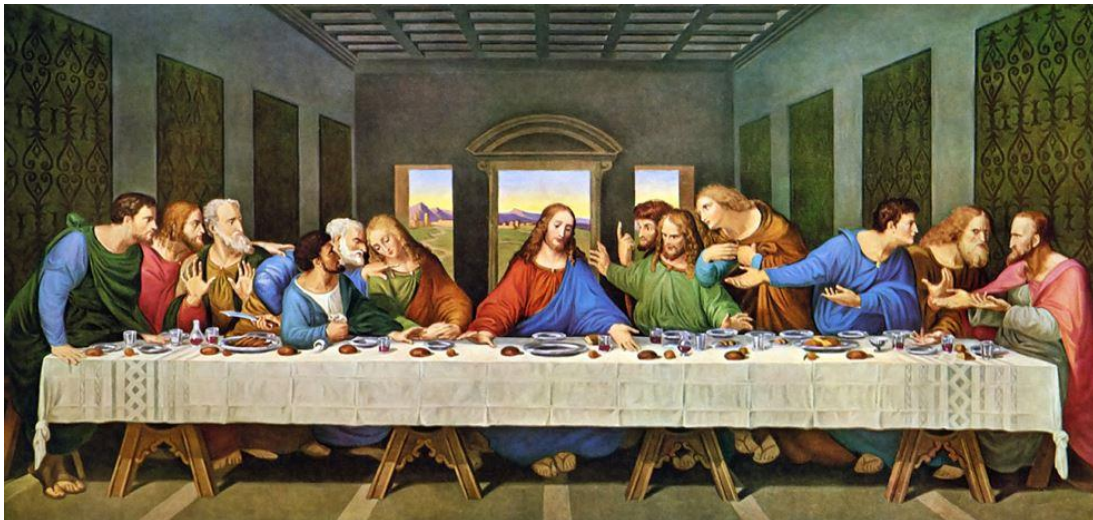
### **Mark Yount**

Service Leader: Chris McDermott  
Music: Barbara Joy Plattner  
This I Believe: Rachel Cross

For many whose lives seem lost, evangelical Christianity holds out what can seem a miracle: that my ruined life might be redeemed, that I might be born again. For those of us skeptical or rejecting of the Easter resurrection story, what "miracle" do we offer hopeless souls? What Christians call conversion stems from the Greek *metanoia*, a thorough change of character. Can we find in that spirit a humanistic miracle of rebirth?



Dr. Mark Yount's Philosophy degrees are a B.A. from William and Mary, M.A from Villanova, and Ph.D. from University of Colorado at Boulder. Mark taught Philosophy full time for 12 years at Trinity College in Hartford, St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, and at Jacksonville University. He then applied his Psychology minor to a second career in behavioral health, serving over a decade as QI Director and Corporate Compliance Officer for Gateway and Stewart-Marchman, before joining Mental Health America to assist unhoused mental health clients apply for SSDI. In his 24 years as a UU, Mark has given well over a hundred sermons at Buckman Bridge UU Church in Jacksonville, All Souls UU in Palatka, and here with us in St. Augustine. He has worked for over a decade to shape his best sermons toward a book to be titled *Wisdom on the Way: Joining Philosophy, Psychology and Spirituality to See Ourselves Whole through the Worldview Wars*.



**Sunday, April 16, 10:00 a.m.**  
**"Pecha Kucha:**  
**encouraging community to gather and inspire"**  
**Angie Uhlmann**

Service Leader: Gina Jonas  
Music: Alex Richman  
"Listen and Talk with Heart"  
Food Collection for Food Pantry  
Cash Plate Donation to Food Pantry

This talk is about how using your time to help engage the community is good for your soul.



Angie Uhlmann came to Flagler College after a childhood combined of boredom and adventure. She found a great community in this town that she had not found anywhere else. She recently finished a job with NOAA and is enjoying some time before starting a new adventure.



**Sunday, April 23, 10:00 a.m.**  
**“Christians Can Afford to Be More like Jesus”**  
**Dr. Daniel Cronrath**

Service Leader: Rachel Cross  
Music: Barbara Joy Plattner  
Family Chalice Lighting  
Green Minute



This talk discusses the unrealized political power of Christians to alleviate poverty by working through their elected leaders. It challenges existing paradigms regarding the inability of governments to afford to end poverty and properly frames it as a lack of political will.

Dr. Daniel S. Cronrath is an accomplished lecturer, public policy professional and political analyst. He is currently a Professor of Political Science at Florida State College at Jacksonville where he teaches American Federal Government and State and Local Government. He is an alumnus of the prestigious Graduate School of Political Management at The

George Washington University and has consulted for Democratic and independent candidates in races for Congress, circuit court, state senate, state house, school superintendent, school board, and county attorney. His areas of expertise in campaign management include messaging, targeting, direct mail, and debate preparation. Cronrath has appeared as a political analyst for CBS 47/Fox 30 Action News Jax, First Coast News, WJXT Channel 4, Florida Gateway College Television, and WJCT Public Media, Jacksonville's NPR affiliate.





# **Sunday, April 30, 10:00 a.m.**

## **“Adventures in History”**

### **David Nolan**

Service Leader: Margaret Nicholson

Music: Alex Richman



David Nolan’s talk will explore a variety of “adventures in history” starting with his childhood encounters with a pioneer historian who knew the last survivors of the Oregon Trail and the Pony Express. David’s participation in the civil rights movement of the 1960s will follow. We’ll learn about his years as a “streetwalker” in St. Augustine in the 1970s, working on the first official survey of old buildings in the Ancient City—sometimes confused with the property appraiser and hence roundly cursed!

David Nolan is a local historian and author who has written *Fifty Feet in Paradise* (1984) and *The Houses of St. Augustine* (1995). He has worked over the years to get recognition for the rich Black history of St. Augustine. David was one of the founding members of 40th ACCORD, which originally formed to spearhead a 2004

year-long commemoration of the demonstrations in St Augustine that led to the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. ACCORD established the first civil rights museum in the state of Florida at 79 Bridge Street in St. Augustine. The group is responsible for the creation of the Freedom Trail.

## **New Quest Editor Needed**

I have agreed to take over the duty of treasurer for the UUFSA because nobody else would accept the job and Barbara has been doing it for six years. This means that I will no longer have time to produce the *Quest* and meet the requirements of my home situation with my declining energy level. Therefore, I will cease production of the *Quest* after the June 2023 issue.

UUFSA needs a new *Quest* editor to avoid loss of this valuable publication. Alternatively, if someone else will step forward to be treasurer, I would be able to continue with the *Quest*. However, if only one job is to be done, paying the bills takes priority.

Don Brandes  
donaldbrandes@gmail.com





**Saturday, April 1st, 7-9pm**



**Dust off your dancing shoes for the UUFSA**

# *Spring Gala*

**Lite bites will be provided --- BYOB  
Children and guests are welcome**

**Please RSVP to Maureen Herth ([jmlnherth@aol.com](mailto:jmlnherth@aol.com)) or on the  
clipboard at the back of the Sanctuary.**

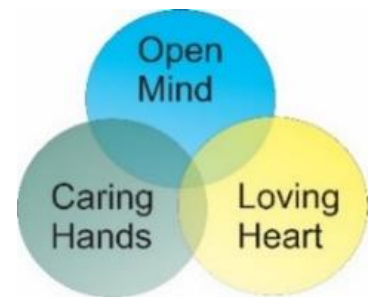
**Please send any music requests for the dance playlist to  
Maureen Herth.**

**As a reminder this is a fundraising event, so bring some cash  
and chip in what you can. There will be several ways to donate  
including a silent auction for a beautiful quilt made by  
Rosemary Wheeler, a chance to relax with a chair massage  
from our own Priscilla Gulliver (\$1 per minute), and a raffle!**

**This event will be held downstairs.**

# Programs for Children and Youth

*Jindy Gelow and Barbara Battelle*



The fourth Sunday in February, members of the Shuford family were our chalice lighters. Shuford family members have been active participants in our Fellowship for many years. We are delighted to be part of Grace and Stella's growing up.



2017



2020



2023

The first Sunday in March, our young people treated us to a fun reading of the “Story for All Ages” titled “The Big Orange Splot”. This story celebrates imagination, diversity, and respect for the diversity we see around us. We hope you enjoyed it. If you missed it, you can find it in the archives on our website, [UUFSA.org](http://UUFSA.org). Our next “Story for All Ages” is titled “An American Story”. You don’t want to miss it. 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 will continue learning from the Riddles and Mysteries Curriculum from the UUA’s Tapestry of Faith and address big questions such as: “Why do bad things happen?” and “Is life fair?” 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 Homer reacts to Bart’s new Muslim friend. As usual, this episode prompted great discussions.

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 hero is always larger than life.**

**He does things that most of us can't do.**

**He serves as a model for us.**

**He makes us feel a little proud of being humans because he redefined human nature.**

**Hero myths are always culturally deflected.**

**April 6 ..... Hero Myths**

**Mythic Heroes: King Arthur**

**April 20 ..... Female Heroes: Demeter and Hester Prynne**

**Female Heroes: Psyche and the Beauty**

.

**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.**

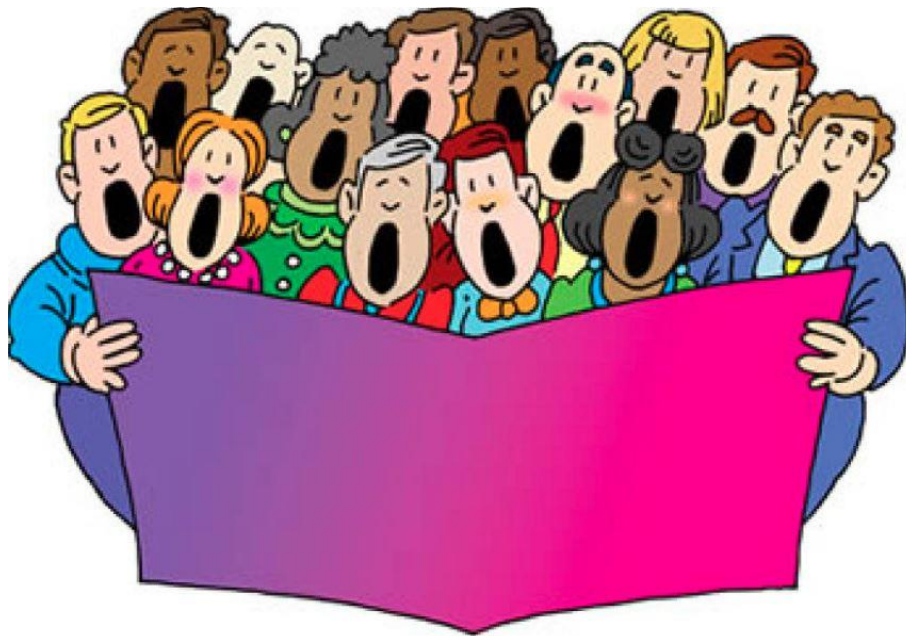
**Please come and join us in exploring this topic in detail.**

**Jocelyn Breakwell, Series Coordinator**

**Richard Lahey, Surindar Paracer and Trudy Byerly**



## **Singing the Living Tradition and Singing the Journey**



Our UUFSa Health and Safety Team has given us the all clear to attend services in the sanctuary without a mask. It is now acceptable for us to sing together without masks. Now that our mask requirements have been lifted, we have had renewed interest in starting up our choir again.

We have also had some express interest in a monthly drum circle, which we used to facilitate before the pandemic.

Responsibilities include joy in singing in a robust, clear voice. Generally the choir receives the hymns from each week's musician by Wednesday before the Sunday service, and meets to rehearse beforehand.



If you are interested in either activity, please contact Robin Mahonen, Chair of the UUFSA Sunday Service Team. Robin may be reached at (304) 639-5538, or by email at [RRafael2@aol.com](mailto:RRafael2@aol.com).

WE NEED MORE MUSIC AND VOICES IN THE SANCTUARY!



## Island Players

A play reading group of mostly UUFSA members has formed at the UUSFA. We meet downstairs at the UU on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Meetings start with an hour of socializing with finger food appetizers and beverages (BYOB). A short play-reading performance by members of the group follows. After the play-reading performance, a discussion with dessert and coffee will follow. The Players meeting concludes with review of volunteer roles for the next meeting.

All members of the play-reading group are expected to participate as a director, a meeting host, and actors (reading a part) when asked. The Director chooses a play and invites group members to read a specific part. Members not directing or reading a part on a particular 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, form the audience! The Director volunteers in advance. Those invited to read parts for a play reading performance meet for only one rehearsal prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday performance. The volunteer host of the Sunday performance comes early for set up, makes decaf coffee, and stays to clean up. Each member brings EITHER an appetizer OR a dessert to share. Beverages are BYOB.

If you are interested in the play-reading group, we'd love you to join us and participate fully. For more information call Cal Marshall at (505) 879-1869 or e-mail at [calmarshall@hotmail.com](mailto:calmarshall@hotmail.com). Please, no texts.



# Highway Clean-up



On March 11, a warm and sunny Saturday morning, the Palmer's Legacy A1A Hwy Picker Uppers were out cleaning the roadside from unsightly litter. It's always a busy time during Bike Week. Thanks to our talented pickers: Judy and Larry Olson, Robin Mahonen and Damien (not pictured), and Mary Kellough and Nana Royer who were somewhere on A1A when the photos were taken. Honorable mention to Marsha Williams who showed up for moral support. The PL AHPU meets every 3 months (or so) to keep the 2-mile stretch of A1A looking good. If you would like to join next time send an email to Chris McDermott at [Mc noodle55@gmail.com](mailto:Mc noodle55@gmail.com) or just let him know. Thanks!



# Care Connection

The Care Connection is thrilled to announce that Marsha Williams has joined our team!

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   Marsha Williams





# 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).



## 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))

## UUFSA April Calendar



- 1 – Spring Gala 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- 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 – Sunday Service Team 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- 6 – Motion is Lotion 9:30 – 10:30 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 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
- 14 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 16 – Third Sunday food collection at start of service
- 16 – Collection plate to the Food Pantry
- 20 – Motion is Lotion 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
- 20 – Adult Learning 6:00 – 7:30, p.m.
- 21 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 21 – Deadline for April *Quest* contributions 5:00 p.m.
- 27 – Motion is Lotion 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
- 28 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

# Online UUFSA Events Calendar

It is now possible the view to 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>



## 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).*

A Polish man married a Canadian girl after he had been in Canada a year or so, and although his English was far from perfect, the couple got on very well. One day, though, he rushed into a lawyer's office and asked if he could arrange a divorce for him, "Very quick!" The lawyer explained that the speed of getting a divorce would depend on the circumstances, and asked these questions:

LAWYER: "Have you any grounds?"

POLE: "An acre and half, and a nice 3 bedroom house."

LAWYER: "No, I mean what is the foundation of the case?"

POLE: "It made of concrete, bricks and mortar."

LAWYER: "Do either of you have a real grudge?"

POLE: "No, we have a carport and don't need a grudge."

LAWYER: "I mean, what are your relations like?"

POLE: "All my relations live in Poland."

LAWYER: "Is there any infidelity in your marriage?"

POLE: "Yes, we have a high-fidelity stereo set and DVD player with 6.1 sound."

LAWYER: "No, I mean does your wife beat you up?"

POLE: "No, I'm always up before her."

LAWYER: "Why do you want this divorce?"

POLE: "She going to kill me!"

LAWYER: "What makes you think that?"

POLE: "I got proof!"

LAWYER: "What kind of proof?"

POLE: "She going to poison me. She buy bottle at drug store and I read label. It say Polish Remover."



## The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center

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

- **Come work for The Mountain!** Hiring summer camp counselors and leaders, development associate, kitchen staff, and farm staff.  
<https://www.themountainrlc.org/jobs>
- **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.*
- **Homecoming, May 26-29.** Join us at The Mountain for our 43rd Annual Gathering of Members and Friends. We will have three days of renewing connections with old friends and making new connections, being immersed in this extraordinary natural environment, learning about current projects and possibilities for the future, in addition to workshops, entertainment, and our Annual Meeting.
- **Summer Camp options for kids and for adults!**
- **Personal Retreat – for individuals or groups**

We look forward to hosting you at The Mountain soon.

**The Mountain is hiring!** The Mountain has opportunities for people who would love to live and work at The Mountain: Summer camp counselors and leaders, kitchen staff, maintenance, development associate, and farm staff. Applications open.

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

For more information about The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center:

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