

QUEST



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

April 2024

2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32080
3/4 mile south of State Road 312

uufsacontact@gmail.com <http://www.uufsa.org/>

Sunday services are presented in-person and online at 10:00 a.m.

Click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4750592013> after 9:30 a.m.

A Sunday children's program also is available.

Recordings of most past presentations are available on our website.

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The *Quest* is published monthly September through July.

Materials for the May issue are due by April 15.

Don Brandes, Editor: donaldbrandes@gmail.com

Thanks to Mick Read for proofreading.

From Your President



April is the month of spring in Saint Augustine. The trees are green, the bird nests contain eggs, the alligators are on the prowl for food and mates, the perennials are blooming, the ocean temperature is above 70 degrees, and the average air temperature ranges between a low of 59 degrees and high of 79 degrees: a beautiful time to be outdoors in Saint Augustine, to visit the rookery at the Alligator Farm, to walk on the beach, to hike or bike on a trail, or to sit on a patio or park bench.

April is a busy month of preparation for the next church year at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Saint Augustine. The Finance Committee is finalizing their next fiscal year budget recommendations for the Board of Trustees to review and approve before presenting to the membership at the annual meeting. The Nominating Committee is recruiting volunteers for Officers, Trustees, and future members of the Nominating Committee. The Sunday Service Team is beginning to plan speakers and topics for the upcoming year. Plans for lifelong learning for adults and children are being formulated. All our committees and teams can start recruiting volunteers to help support the ongoing operations of our fellowship during the next church year, which starts July first. Depending on the sum of pledges received, recommendations regarding whether to have Sunday services during the summer will be discussed by the Board.

For individuals and families, April is a busy month for planning travel for graduations, weddings, and summer vacations. Other than Thanksgiving, the December holidays, and funerals, these occasions are sometimes the only times when extended families gather together to celebrate and reconnect with each other.

I believe that interpersonal connection is the primary benefit of belonging to a religious community like ours, which convenes "...to dwell together in peace, to seek knowledge in freedom, to serve humanity in fellowship, to the end that all that lives may grow toward harmony with the Divine..." Although one can attempt to experience spiritual connection through the individual practices of yoga, meditation and prayer, according to Victor Hugo in *Les Miserables*, "to love another person is to see the face of God." The anxiety and depression associated with social isolation is best remedied by gathering with others. We welcome you to join us at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Saint Augustine.

**In fellowship,
Fred Dolgin**

904-687-4018
fdolgin@bellsouth.net

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. Wearing a mask is optional.

The front doors of our sanctuary are locked at 10:10 a.m. on Sunday mornings to promote the safety and security of service attendees.

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 7: Margaret Nicholson, send2me@bellsouth.net

April 14: Michael Read, mickread@gmail.com

April 21: Mary Kellough, lkellough@comcast.net

April 28: Chris McDermott, mcnoodle55@gmail.com

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, April 7, 10:00 a.m.
**“St Augustine: Watching Its Transformation
through the Camera Lens”**

Jorge Luis Rivera

Service Leader: Margaret Nicholson
Music: Alex Richman
Story for All Ages

Jorge Rivera will describe how he discovered the present history and people of St Augustine through the lens of his camera: The people, the organizations, the causes, the entrepreneurs, the artists, the challenges, and more. He concludes with his hopes for the community as it moves into the future.



Jorge Luis Rivera was born in 1955 in Manhattan in what’s known as Hell’s Kitchen. His mother was Puerto Rican, his father Costa Rican. Jorge moved to Puerto Rico at age twelve, returning to New York at eighteen. He’s worked at many types of jobs throughout his life—dishwasher, truck driver, waiter, cook, firefighter, actor, electrician, interpreter, teacher, humanitarian worker, photo/videographer, and more. He’s lived abroad, mostly in Europe, where he taught English and Spanish, acted, directed and produced theatre plays at Dresden University of Technology. He moved to Maui, Hawaii, working with art galleries in Lahaina. Jorge has been active in humanitarian work in Russia and Czechoslovakia. He has travelled extensively through Vietnam, China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Japan, Egypt and Tunisia, and crossed Russia on the Trans-Siberian Express.

In 2006, he relocated to St Augustine to be his mother’s caregiver for 15 years. He began a YouTube channel, First CoastTV, to cover events and people in St Augustine, created short documentaries on local subjects, which developed into St Augustine Tonight Show. Jorge remains behind the camera and enjoys driving Uber part time. He has a daughter, son, and granddaughter.

Sunday, April 14, 10:00 a.m.
“In Search of Understanding the UUFSA”
Gina Jonas

Service Leader: Michael Read
Music: Barbara Joy Plattner
This I Believe



Is the UUFSA a religious institution, a political/justice movement, a social club, or all of the above?! Please join me in considering the relationship between our Seven Principles and how we, as individuals and a fellowship community choose to act.

Gina Jonas is a UUFSA member of six years and has served as President, Vice President, Co-chair of the Social Justice Team, and member of the Sunday Service Team. She is grateful for the incredible learning and service opportunities that membership in this community has provided.



Sunday, April 21, 10:00 a.m.
“St. Francis House – More than a Shelter”
Karen Hensel

Service Leader: Mary Kellough
Music: Alex Richman
Food Collection by Youth
Third Sunday Plate Donation: Home Again St. Johns

St. Francis House has been a part of the St Augustine/St. Johns County community for 40 years. Like our community, it has changed and grown over the years to better address the growing issue of homelessness. Join us to learn about the evolution of this agency and the programs that are at the center of providing solutions that take men, women, families, and youth experiencing homelessness from the streets to stability.

Karen Hensel is celebrating 10 years as Assistant Director of St. Augustine Society, Inc., the legal name of the agency operating St. Francis House, Port in the Storm Homeless Youth Center, and SOS Street Outreach Services. She was educated at the State University of NY at Oswego. Her professional career began in public relations before moving into non-profit development. Karen has 30 years' experience working with non-profit organizations specializing in small agencies seeking to grow their programs and impact through program and fund development. Karen and her husband of 56 years moved to St. Augustine in 2000. She spends her free time trying to keep up with three active teenage grandchildren, gardening, sewing and volunteering at her church.



St Francis House and women's dorm building



Future home of St Francis House family shelter

Sunday, April 28, 10:00 a.m.
“Lessons from the ISS”
Phillip Baber

Service Leader: Chris McDermott
Music: Alex Richman
Family Chalice Lighting

Phillip will explore what lessons the International Space Station can teach us regarding the future of Unitarian Universalism.

Our speaker is Pastor Phillip Baber, well known to this Fellowship, and a strong advocate of social justice. His ministry emphasizes Reconciliation and Empowerment in the Judeo-Christian tradition. In years past, Phillip served as pastor of the Unitarian Church in Jacksonville, and as an interfaith leader in greater Jacksonville. Some months ago, Phillip and his family moved to Dublin. Besides being a devoted husband and father, Phillip continues his scholarly research and writing.



UUA General Assembly 2024
June 20 - 23

The theme for the [2024 Virtual General Assembly](#) is *Love Unites, Stories Ignite*.

[GA Volunteer Application](#) is now open! There will be many Volunteer Opportunities for both onsite and offsite participants. **Volunteers are eligible to receive a fully funded GA registration.**

[GA Registration](#)

[GA Promotional Materials](#) are available to share with your congregation.

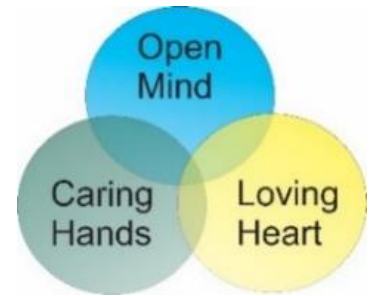
Get all the news about the UUA General Assembly in your inbox - [subscribe now!](#)



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
VIRTUAL GA • JUNE 20 - 23, 2024

Programs for Children and Youth

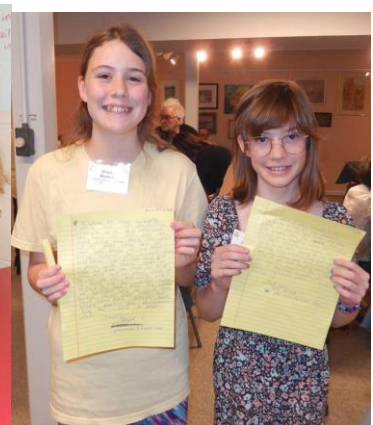
What Follows Making a Moral Compass? Having made a Moral Compass (last month) what do you do with it? Why, use it of course! More great lessons in our kids' classroom! The kids created and drew "Modern Gods" for modern problems. One was a ButterDragonDeer (Butterfly, Dragon, and Deer) and Goddess of Light, Energy and Conservation. Then they did an Ethics Play, acting out different roles. The Star is given a morally complex scenario. For example a friend who dishonestly boasts about acing a test. Others playing their assigned role, i.e. Devil, God, Conscience, Parent, etc., offer advice while the Star deliberates on what to do. Lastly, our kids wrote letters on rules they believe should be enacted concerning environmental conservation and another on dangers of plastics and availability of recycling receptacles on the beach. More great lessons are being taught in our classroom. Thanks go to Maureen for filling in for Ramona on her day off and Barbara and Jindy were not available.



"Modern Goddess"



Ethics Play



Letters to our government

Spring Festival April 14th

Mark your calendars, clear your Sunday after church for another fun festival. Our kids are working on bringing you another fun time to help others. Games, snacks and fun, fun, fun. We will be sending out an e-blast with all the particulars so watch your email and listen for announcements.

Ramona, Ayler, Jindy and Barbara

For more information email: BatelleBarbara@gmail.com

Care Connection

The Care Connection Team provides short-term, non-medical support for Members and Friends 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.

Rosemary Wheeler, Co-Chair, Maureen Herth, Co-Chair, Anne Wilke,
Pat Hall, Marsha Williams, Trudy Byerly

**The Care Connection is seeking new members!
If you're interested in joining this essential and supportive committee,
reach out to either Rosemary Wheeler or Maureen Herth.**

Island Players

A play reading group of mostly UUFSA members meets downstairs at the UU on the second Sunday of each month, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. 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. Please, no texts.



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.



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://www.uufsa.org)

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.



Motion is Lotion

Motion is Lotion will continue with the full 60 minutes of Strength and Stretch and Qigong warm-up. Cost is \$10 per class or 4 classes for \$32. Call for questions and permission to add to reminder text list. **Priscilla, 904-347-7497**



Darts

Join Chris McDermott for friendly games of darts on the third Friday of every month from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. downstairs at the Fellowship.

UUFSA April Events



- 2 – Motion is Lotion
- 5 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 7 – Food drop-off for Dining with Dignity 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- 7 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 8 – Board of Trustees meeting, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- 9 – Motion is Lotion
- 12 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 14 – Island Players (play reading group) 5:00 – 8:00
- 19 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 19 – Deadline for May *Quest* contributions 5:00 p.m.
- 19 – Darts 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 21 – Third Sunday food collection at start of service
- 23 – Motion is Lotion
- 26 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 30 – Motion is Lotion

This calendar includes only UUFSA events. See the **online calendar** at uufsa.org for the complete scheduling of UUFSA building use.



On the Lighter Side . . .

Michael Read at mickread@gmail.com.

And now it is with extreme regret and consternation that we must announce the cessation of the column “On the Lighter Side” from future issues of the *Quest*. It was recently discovered that the editor of this highly popular column had composed the funniest joke ever written, and after reciting it out loud, died laughing.



Beyond our Congregation

The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center



Join us at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, a Magical UU Place and experience near Highlands, NC

- **Join our passionate Mountain team** and be part of making a difference for individuals, our community and the world! Available positions and application at <https://www.themountainrlc.org/jobs> - competitive compensation, including medical insurance and retirement.
- **Volunteer Work Weekend** March 28-31 <https://www.themountainrlc.org/easter-stewardship-and-volunteer-weekend>
- **Music Week** April 18-23 <https://www.themountainrlc.org/music-week>
- **Climate Justice Conference** April 28-May 3 <https://www.themountainrlc.org/2024-climate-justice-summit>
- **Summer Camps** are open for registration for kids and adults! <https://www.themountainrlc.org/mountaincamp>
- The Roots & Wings Campaign is a generational investment in The Mountain. Our goal is to raise \$3.2 million for improvements to guest and staff facilities and supporting programs that make a difference for youth and adults across our wider world. **Join us today for this exciting Capital Campaign!** You can find the **pledge form** right here: <http://www.bit.ly/MtnPledge>

Now is the time to lock in your spot for meaningful 2024 programming at The Mountain. We look forward to seeing you soon!

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

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