

QUEST



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

July and August 2023
2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, FL 32080
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Sunday services are suspended for summer break.
Services will resume September 10.

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From Your President



Dear Members and Friends,

Once again, I'm ensconced in the room where, these past 17 months, my letters to you were inspired by current events and the calendar, with its seasonal changes and national remembrances. Today, as I conclude my term as president, I feel a need to write a more personal note. To do that, it feels right to describe the particular place where I've sought words that will connect with myself, in hopes that they will connect with you.

Please join me on my 'Parsons' chair, purchased soon after we arrived from Seattle in 2016. Upholstered in a soft, dull gold and enlivened with embroidered vines in a brighter shade, the chair nestles in one corner of the room. At left, a sturdy old oak bookcase that yet resonates with impermanence—recalling a friendship broken after a 30-year run. Perhaps choosing this case for my books on Buddhism was an act of acceptance, perhaps placing a small Matisse print, "The Joy of Life," above the case was a gesture of hope and healing.

Along the wall across from me, a twin bed displays two of my late grandmother's lovely hand-cut linen tablecloths. Though stains prevented me from using them as intended, by overlapping them to hide the spots I created a bedspread! Atop the spread, leaning against the wall, a Tiepolo print exudes the mysterious beauty of Italian light. Bathed in this light, embodied figures of the Muses approach the ancient King Mycenae, gorgeously robed in hues of blue, ochre and salmon. While arched colonnades evoke the grandeur of the classical world, the Muses summon me to the timeless world of creativity.

Facing ahead, stands my piano. Daily practice sessions, as brief as 10 minutes, invite me into the company of Bach and Handel. As I persist, their revelations reward me beyond words. Lastly, enlivening the little dresser of my late father-in-law, Kenneth Read, is "Beethoven's Piano," made by our own Stella Shufford at age six. Its construction-paper keyboard dances on a red background lightly sprinkled with glitter. While Kenneth completed a career as a noted anthropologist, little Stella's piece, for me, mingles the energy of youth, potential, and the yet to become.

May these few moments spent in the quiet precincts of my mind inspire you to commune with the familiar objects of your own settings. May your solitude refresh and delight you with the sense of belonging in this world with all its strangeness, vulnerability, and beauty. I wish you the joy of sharing your discoveries!

Filled with gratitude and the warmth of fellowship,

Gina
(Outgoing UUFS president)

904-679-4610
gina.jonas@gmail.com

Sunday Programs

**Sunday services are suspended for summer break.
Services will resume September 10.**

Save Your Water for Our Water Communion Sunday, September 10, 2023

We remind you to collect water from your summer journeys, wherever they might be, and to share with us as a community in fellowship.

Might you gather water from a nearby pond or lake which you visit regularly?
May you take some water from the powerful ocean which surrounds us?
Might you come across a small puddle during a meditative time?
May you take your water from a pool which has cooled you as the sun beats down?
Wherever you find water, collect it, and share it with us.

We will miss you all during the summer months of July and August! A big part of our fellowship is communing with each other, whether at Sunday Services, the 3 C's of coffee, cookies and conversation, our gatherings at Pomar Park, or our various connections via the Food Pantry, the RE Program, AV Team, Hospitality, Dining with Dignity, the Care Connection, Social Justice activities, the Quest, just gardening at our grounds, or picking up litter for our A1A Highway Cleanup, and of course, the Sunday Service Team. Any of these Teams is delighted to have you volunteer your services and become a bigger part of our fellowship.

We hope you enjoy your Florida summer, and we look forward to seeing you all in September!

As our own dear Ralph Waldo Emerson said: "Live in the sunshine, swim in the sea, drink in the wild air."

Robin Mahonen
UUFSA Sunday Program Team Chair



Choir



"Music is the language of the spirit. It opens the secret of life bringing peace, abolishing strife." – Kahlil Gibran

It has been a long time since the pandemic made us sing behind our masks and quietly in our hearts. Most of us are back in the sanctuary together, so, as our hymnal encourages us, "Lift Every Voice and Sing"!

We'd like to reinvigorate our Choir and get us singing together again in the fall.

"Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent." – Victor Hugo

Let's make beautiful music together!

Robin Mahonen
UUFSA Sunday Service Team Chair

Programs for Children and Youth

Jindy Gelow, Barbara Battelle, Rachel Cross

Formal classes for our young people ended the last Sunday in May. Our young people are now off having new summer adventures. We look forward to seeing all of them again in September.

During the UUFSA's summer break, Jindy, Barbara and Rachel will be busy planning curricula and activities for the coming congregational year. Importantly, we will be searching for a lead teacher for our program. If you know of anyone who might be interested and a good fit for our Fellowship, please pass along the information in the ad included on the following page.

As our program for next year takes shape, please check out our website: UUFSA.org and click on Education, then Children and Youth.





Wanted

Lead Sunday School Teacher Program for Children and Youth Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine

Beginning September 10, 2023

- Position:** Lead Teacher in our Program for Children and Youth
- Where:** Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine (UUFSA)
2487 A1A South, St. Augustine, Florida 32080
- When:** Present lessons Sundays 9:45 AM – 11:45 AM
Contract will extend through June 30, 2024
- Compensation:** \$125/week. Includes compensation for preparation time and two hours of class time.

Brief Job Description:

Prepare and present lessons based Unitarian Universalist curricula for school-aged children.

Qualifications:

Knowledge of (or a willingness to learn about) Unitarian Universalism and a respect for our values and traditions.

Experience or training working with children is highly desirable but not required.

To learn more about our Fellowship and our denomination check out our website: UUFSA.org and the website of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA.org)

To apply:

For more information, contact Barbara Battelle (email: battellebarbara@gmail.com)

UUFSA Adult Learning



Adult learning classes are suspended for the summer. Classes will resume in the fall.

2023-24 Class Schedule

Understanding the Science for Tomorrow: Myth and Reality

- September 7 **Magnetism:** The science of Attraction
- September 21 **Transportation:** The Science of How We Move
- October 5 **Computers:** Billions of Bits per Second
- October 19 **Artificial Intelligence:** Thinking Machines
- November 2 **Robotics:** Living with Machines
- November 30 **Microscopes:** The Power of Seeing
- December 7 **Nanotechnology:** The New Science of Small
- December 28 **Nanotechnology:** Changing Everything
- January 11 **Genetic Engineering:** Life's Building Blocks
- January 25 **Synthetic Life:** Making Life from Scratch
- February 8 **The Brain:** Your Body's Supercomputer
- February 22 **Cancer and Aging:** Can They Be Defeated
- March 7 **Powerful Viruses:** Future Friends or Foes?
- March 21 **Food or Famine:** Science Holds the Key
- April 11 **Water:** The Currency of the Next Century
- April 25 **Biofuels:** The Fuel of the Future
- May 9 **Solar Cells:** Electricity from the Sun
- May 23 **Batteries:** Storing Energy Chemically
- June 6 **The Hydrogen Economy:** Fact or Fiction
- June 20 **Communication:** Transcending Time and Space

We will be meeting at 6:00 pm, downstairs, at the UUFSA Fellowship hall.
Professor Jeffrey Grossman, (M.I.T) is the lecturer for this series.

Surindar Paracer, Richard Lahey, Jocelyn Breakwell, and Trudy Byerly
UU Adult Learning Coordinators



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**



Island Players Sunday, July 23, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Island Players, our UUFSA play reading group, will continue to meet on the fourth Sunday through July. The group will not meet in August. Regular meetings will resume in September but will change to the second Sunday of each month.

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.

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.



We Need this Amendment!

UU Justice Florida supports the proposed Amendment to the Florida Constitution, establishing the Right to Clean and Healthy Water.

When 80% of our springs are contaminated by excessive nitrogen, 9,000 miles of our estuaries, streams and rivers are contaminated with fecal bacteria, and when blue-green algae blooms are becoming the “new normal,” linked to neurodegenerative diseases, it is clear that litigation is not working. The laws have become “permits to pollute.”

This citizens’ initiative is the only way forward for our peninsula to continue to function with good water quality and quantity. Those who know call this a “911 issue.”

According to environmental attorney Jane West, ***“Litigation isn’t working. Lobbying isn’t working. My personal opinion is that this is the only way forward. Without meaningful action on this amendment, I don’t see how the peninsula is going to continue to function with good water quality and quantity moving forward.”***

Please get in touch with **Nana Royer** or **Chris McDermott** about how you can help with this critical issue. We can get you petitions and/or you can print them for yourself at

FloridaRightToCleanWater.org
We need 900,000 valid signed petitions!
Please!

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.

The Care Connection is pleased to announce that Trudy Byerly has joined our team!

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



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.



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://Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of St. Augustine (square site))



UUFSA Calendar

July



- 2 – Food drop-off for Dining with Dignity 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- 2 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 7 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 10 – Board of Trustees meeting, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- 14 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 21 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 23 – UUFSA Island Players (play reading group) 5:00 – 7:30
- 28 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

August

- 6 – Food drop-off for Dining with Dignity 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- 6 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 4 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 14 – Board of Trustees meeting, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- 11 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 18 – Deadline for September *Quest* contributions 5:00 p.m.
- 18 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 25 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Online UUFSA Events Calendar

You may view the online Google calendar of UUFSA events and building usage from the UUFSA website by clicking on a link on the home page at uufsa.org.



The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center

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

- **Come work for The Mountain!** Hiring summer camp staff, development associate, kitchen staff, and farm staff. <https://www.themountainrlc.org/jobs>
- Tasty and educational farm events all year: <https://www.themountainrlc.org/farm-events>
- **Summer Camp options for kids and for adults!** Youth and Adult Farm camps and Intergenerational camp still have openings.
- **Personal Retreat -- for individuals or groups**

We look forward to hosting you at The Mountain soon!

Information about more programs at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center: [themountainrlc.org](https://www.themountainrlc.org) or 828.526.5838