

QUEST



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

June 2023

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 July-August issue are due by June 21.

Don Brandes, Editor: donaldblandes@gmail.com

Thanks to Michael Read for proofreading.

From Your President



Dear Members and Friends,

What excites you? What stirs you and fills you with wonder? Have you been waiting to dive into some new thing, some artistic endeavor? Does June awaken the travel bug and, voila, a road to adventure stretching before you?

Many years ago, I wrote a poem for my father-in-law, an avid gardener, called "Dreaming a Garden." Clearly, his garden had begun as a hope-filled dream, a vision of pulsing vibrancy, and a palette of color worthy of a gifted painter. Viewing his garden, week-by-week on our regular visits, my husband and I marveled as the buds became blossoms. We were grateful that "the thought of a weed" had not daunted his spirit, had not suppressed his urge to create.

What are your dreams of joy? Do mental weeds arise? "I can't, it's too late, there's not enough time?" Weeds in nature and human nature are natural! In the garden, they are visible and controlled by tools like the hand-held trowel. In the mind, however, they may be less obvious and more challenging (though not impossible!) to remove.

In our community, we preserve our outdoor garden under the vigilant care of our Landscape Team and chief gardener, Mary Kellough. They weed, water, and plant to maintain its beauty. What can nurture your dream? In community, we can give each other's dreams the TLC needed for new growth to flourish. The first step is sharing, letting the light of another's interest help your dream take root, providing a stake needed to support it.

Perhaps your bliss or joy is right before you and just a bit overgrown. In the garden of life, we garden together and we garden as individuals. We seek connection to each other and we grow gardens like the UUFSA – a vital collection of hearts and minds. We seek connection with ourselves and our unique potential, in whatever stage of life's cycle we find ourselves. From my heart to yours, may courage be the ground that infuses your efforts, and may kindness be the gardener that smiles lovingly upon their tender shoots.

Happy June! May you find joy in your days, each a bud in the morning ready to blossom, each a precious gift to be shared!

In the warmth of fellowship,

Gina

904-679-4610
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. Wearing a mask is optional.

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.

June 4: Rachel Cross, rachelcrossart@gmail.com

June 11: Chris McDermott, mcnoodle55@gmail.com

June 18: Nana Royer, nanaroyer@gmail.com

June 25: Robin Mahonen, RRafael2@aol.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.

UUFSA Sunday Service Team Meeting June 5, 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, for login details.

Sunday, June 4, 10:00 a.m.
“Mainstream Media”
Dr. Daniel S. Cronrath

Service Leader: Rachel Cross
Music: Alex Richman



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, June 11, 10:00 a.m.
“Navigating the Storm: Transgender Youth Resilience
During the 2023 Florida Legislative Season”
Sarah Miller

Service Leader: Chris McDermott
Music: Alex Richman
This I Believe: Maureen Herth

The rights to medical care, and arguably the rights to exist, are dwindling for Florida transgender youth. Yet in this troubled time there are stories of hope and resilience. In her follow up from Part I in October 2021, Ms. Miller will review the traumatic past year for transgender youth access to medical care and share her family's story of the tough decisions they made in support of their daughter over the last year.

Sarah Miller by day is an archaeologist who studies resilience and the impacts of climate change on past and living communities. By night she is an advocate for Trans rights and leader of St. Augustine's passage meditation Satsang



Sunday, June 18, 10:00 a.m.
**“Get Unstuck from Conflict with
the Yin/Yang Gestalt”**
Dr. Mark Yount

Service Leader: Nana Royer
Music: Barbara Joy Plattner
Third Sunday Food Collection
Cash Plate Donation to Wildflower Clinic



There's no better Father's Day gift than the perfect tool, but finding the right tools for your spirit can be a challenge. The hardest part of any job is getting stuck. Is it hard to keep your mind clear of other people's conflicts to see your way clear in your own life? Do you see a broken world but feel powerless to fix it? You need the Yin-Yang Gestalt in your personal toolkit. Step back from conflict to see the bigger picture where opposites complement each other. The Yin/Yang Gestalt: it is liquid wrench for mind and spirit!

Mark Yount taught Philosophy for 12 years at Trinity College (Hartford), Saint Joseph's University (Philadelphia) and Jacksonville University after earning degrees in Philosophy from

The College of William and Mary (B.A.), Villanova (M.A.) and University of Colorado at Boulder (Ph.D.). He has given over 80 sermons at Buckman Bridge UU Church (Jacksonville) and served as YRUU/Beacon youth advisor for over a decade.

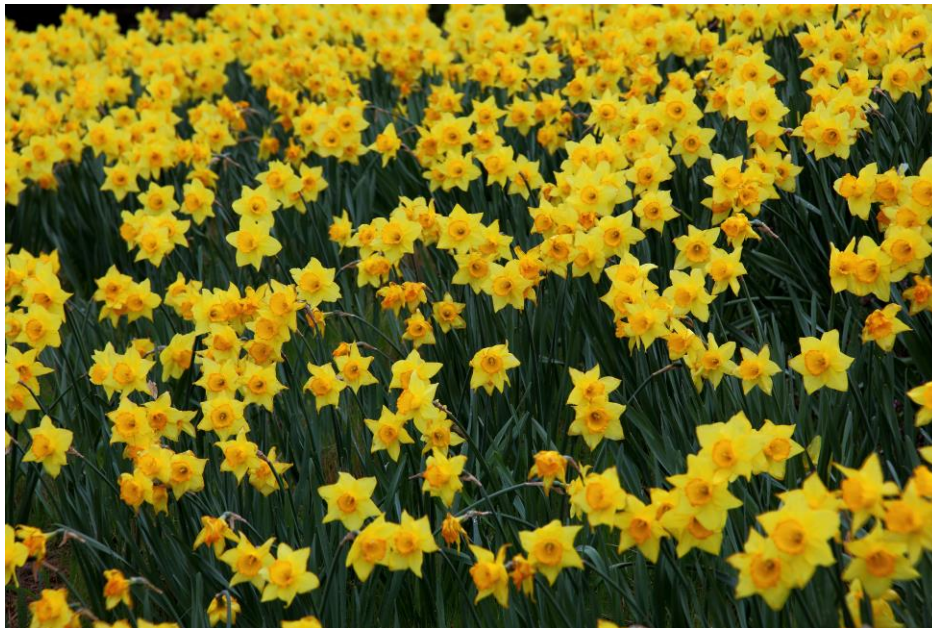


Sunday, June 25, 10:00 a.m.
“Flower Communion”
Facilitated by Robin Mahonen,
Chris McDermott and Rosemary Comtois

Music by Barbara Joy Plattner
Green Minute

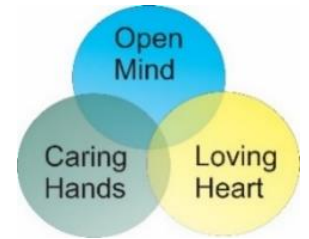
Please bring a flower or so from home to share in this traditional Unitarian Universalist ritual that celebrates our unity amidst diversity. The Flower Communion was first celebrated in Prague on June 4, 1923 by Norbert Čapek, the founder of the Unitarian Church in Czechoslovakia. The ritual was brought to the United States in 1940 by the Rev. Maja Čapek, Norbert's wife, and has since become a tradition for many Unitarian Universalist congregations at the end of the church year. If you need or have forgotten, there will be flowers available for you.

June 25th marks the end of UUFSA Sunday Service Year, 2022-2023. We will resume hybrid services, on Zoom and in the sanctuary, on Sunday, September 10, with our traditional UU Water Communion. Please remember to save water from your summer travels, or any water which has special significance to you, and bring it to the sanctuary with you on that day.



Programs for Children and Youth

Jindy Gelow and Barbara Battelle

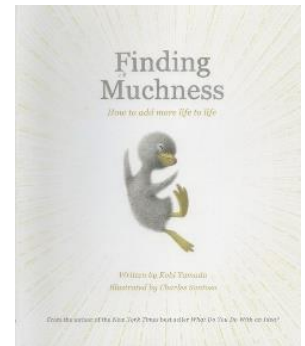


Rachel and Raven Cross were our chalice lighters the fourth Sunday in April.



At the end of April, we were delighted that Robin Mahonen led a class focused on how we can heal the earth. Our young people added their thoughts to a big blue circle representing the Earth, and then all members of the Fellowship were invited to add their thoughts on sticky-notes.

On the first Sunday in May, our young people presented a fun story about how to add more life to life called *Finding Muchness*, "Recommended for ages 99 and younger." We hope you enjoyed it. To hear it again, go to uufsa.org. May's story was the last for this congregational year, but the Stories for All Ages will resume in the fall.



Our young people had great fun learning and dancing the Jerusalema line dance at the Spring Festival. **(If anyone took a picture or video, please send it to battellebarbara@gmail.com!)** They also decorated and raffled off potted plants to raise money for S.A.F.E., a no kill animal shelter. They raised \$87! Thank you very much for your support of their efforts.

The last formal class for our young people was the last Sunday in May. We will resume formal classes when the Fellowship reopens in the fall. Nevertheless, members of the Fellowship will be available through the end of June to work informally with any young people who attend.

During the summer, Jindy Gelow and Barbara Battelle, co-chairs of the UUFSA's Programs for Children and Youth, will be busy planning for the coming year. Jindy and Barbara will contact parents to learn what they hope their young people will gain from participating in our program and learn what the young people's needs might be. Jindy and Barbara will then design or find curricula to meet those hopes and needs. Once curricula are selected, this information will be posted on the uufsa.org web site. We will also seek to hire a qualified teacher for our program. If you know of anyone who might be a good fit as a teacher for our program, please do contact Barbara or Jindy.

Jindy and Barbara wish all our young people exciting summer adventures and look forward to hearing all about them in the fall. Best wishes to all our families for a wonderful summer.

For more information about the UUFSA's Program for Children and Youth, contact Barbara Battelle (Battellebarbara@gmail.com) or Jindy Gelow (Jindyms@yahoo.com).

UUFSA Adult Learning

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Sessions are in person at the Fellowship only, not online.

The Sacred Places in Our Lives

The focus of our attention will be the myths associated with sacred places from the magic of a lake in Tibet, the Australian Dreaming Time, rocks from Mount Kailas in Tibet (the most venerated mountain in the world) to a humanized Buddhist mountain in China, and Yggdrasil in Norse myth to the inverted cosmic tree of India.

The sacred sites are centers of the world, the places where heaven and earth meet and the cosmic powers that created the world can still be accessed by humans.

June 1 The Places of Myths – Rocks and Lakes

June 15 The Places of Myths – Sacred Mountains

We welcome all UUFSA members and friends.

UUFSA Adult Learning Coordinator
Richard Lahey, Surindar Paracer (chair),
Trudy Byerly, and Jocelyn Breakwell





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!

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

A play reading group of mostly UUFSa members has formed at the UUFSa. We meet downstairs at the UU on the 4th 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 4th 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 4th 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. Please, no texts.

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.

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



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.



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 \(square site\)](#)

UUFSA June Calendar



- 1 – Adult Learning 6:00 – 7:30
- 4 – Food drop-off for Dining with Dignity 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- 4 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 5 – Sunday Service Team 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- 9 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 12 – Board of Trustees meeting, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- 15 – Adult Learning 6:00 – 7:30, p.m.
- 16 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 18 – Third Sunday food collection at start of service
- 18 – Collection plate to Wildflower Clinic
- 21 – Deadline for July-August *Quest* contributions 5:00 p.m.
- 23 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 25 – UUFSA Island Players (play reading group) 5:00 – 7:30
- 30 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

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 home page at uufsa.org.



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.

If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?

Just once, I want the username and password prompt to say, "Close enough."

If you see me talking to myself just move along. I'm self-employed. We're having a meeting.

A definition of aging: losing what you want to keep and gaining what you want to lose.

I had a neck brace fitted years ago and I've never looked back since.

When I ask for directions, please don't use complicated words like "east."

It's not my age that bothers me; it's the side effects.

To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.

I don't mean to interrupt people. I just randomly remember things and get really excited.

"The trouble with quotes on the internet is that it's difficult to determine whether or not they are genuine." Abraham Lincoln



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 counselors and leaders, development associate, kitchen staff, and farm staff.
<https://www.themountainrlc.org/jobs>
- **Summer Camp** options for kids and for adults!
- **Personal Retreat -- for individuals or groups**

We look forward to hosting you at The Mountain soon!

For information about more programs at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center:
themountainrlc.org or 828.526.5838