

# QUEST



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

**March 2024**

**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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The *Quest* is published monthly September through July.

**Materials for the April issue are due by March 15.**

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

Thanks to Mick Read for proofreading.

# From Your President



We are in the middle of our pledge drive so that this month of March is a good opportunity to discuss the value of the UUFSA. Our welcoming words on our website deserve to be repeated here.

We welcome and embrace all in a spirit of acceptance and compassion. Whoever you are, wherever you come from, whoever you love, you are welcome here. We are an open-minded, spiritual community; together striving to create a world rooted in love and justice, individually striving to grow in understanding and compassion.

Different from other religious denominations, we are not governed by a central authority, but instead are a lay-led, democratically self-governed congregation that covenants “to dwell together in peace, to seek knowledge in freedom, to serve humanity in fellowship.”

These words become meaningful through our actions: our Sunday morning services; participation in community services such as Dining with Dignity and the Ecumenical Food Pantry; Lifelong Learning programs for adults and children; Social Justice initiatives; involvement with the Saint Augustine Interfaith Council; and mutual support organized by the Care Connection. We also connect with each other during Sunday morning coffee, cookies, and conversation, potlucks, dart night, and the Island Players performances.

In addition to volunteering our time and talents to the above activities, we need to pledge financial support to our budget, which will be discussed and approved by the membership at the annual meeting in May. Although the details of the budget will be presented to the membership in May after development by the Finance Committee and acceptance by the Board, I want to highlight two major expenses that will differ from the current year. Our mortgage-free building and its contents require an updated capital reserve fund that accurately anticipates future replacement costs of contents, and because we are self-insured for wind and flood insurance, we need to contribute to a fund that protects us for possible damages due to wind storms and flooding. One source for these funds is the investment income from our savings, which is an important reason to avoid depleting our savings for operating expenses.

Now is the time to pledge your financial support so that we can continue to provide the services that we value.

**In fellowship,  
Fred Dolgin**

**904-687-4018**  
[fdolgin@bellsouth.net](mailto: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.

March 3: Gina Jonas, [gina.jonas@gmail.com](mailto:gina.jonas@gmail.com)

March 10: Christy Sanford, [christy.sanford@gmail.com](mailto:christy.sanford@gmail.com)

March 17: Margaret Nicholson, [send2me@bellsouth.net](mailto:send2me@bellsouth.net)

March 24: Robin Mahonen, [RRafael2@aol.com](mailto:RRafael2@aol.com)

March 31: Michael Read, [mickread@gmail.com](mailto:mickread@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, March 3, 10:00 a.m.**  
**“Healing the Racial Divide”**  
**Dr. Gina Barclay-McLaughlin**  
**and**  
**Trish LeNet**

Service Leader: Gina Jonas  
Music: Barbara Joy Plattner  
Story for All Ages



Trish LeNet

Dr. Gina Barclay-McLaughlin and Trish LeNet, two of the four founders of Seeking Insights for Solutions (SIS), a group in Flagler County, which is dedicated to racial equity and social justice, will give a brief history of its beginnings, purpose and new projects. They will be joined by some members of SIS.

Dr. Gina Barclay-McLaughlin has a PhD in Psychology and Education from the University of Michigan. She is Professor Emeritus from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. She is originally from Panama and grew up in Chicago, Illinois.

Trish LeNet has a Master's degree in French from Michigan State University. She is a former educator in the United States, France and the Middle East. She was born in Canada and raised in Michigan.



Dr. Gina Barclay-McLaughlin





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

## **“Trail Blazers: The Spiritual Path”**

### **Linda Crider and Uli Schackmann**

Service Leader: Christy Sanford

Music: Alex Richman

This I Believe: Jenny Whilde



Linda Crider

Linda Crider and Uli Schackmann, two intrepid bicyclists, will share their aims and adventures. Uli and Linda have an Alaska–Florida connection that is deep and memorable.

Linda Crider, former University of Florida professor and Executive Director of Bike Florida, moved to Palatka, Florida after retiring, and opened the Bartram Inn B & B. She sold it in 2019 but stays active with the Bartram Committee and other community organizations. Over the past 40 years Linda has been a performer, singer and songwriter, using music as a way to engage her audiences in her passion for trails and history of the places she loves. She has written and recorded over a hundred songs and produced five CDs over the past 20 years, with self-authored songs about livable communities, walking, bicycling, historical places and events, bears in Alaska, and songs about William Bartram and his travels along the St. Johns River. In 2018, Linda

wrote the 6-act play Bartram Nights and arranged to have it showcased in the living room of the Bartram Inn. This past October Linda traveled to Portugal to walk the “El Camino Way” along the Atlantic Coast. This spiritual path, traveled by many, proved to be a challenging adventure. Linda will speak of her experiences. Her legacy to all of us is admirable.

Uli Schackmann came to the US from Germany in the summer of 1986, and became a US Citizen in 2007. Uli has lived in the Northeast and Florida and has worked for Greenpeace, NPR and PBS. In spite of seven hip surgeries, she has retained an athletic lifestyle with a love of helping others. Uli is a spirited advocate for AIDS research and a cure, and has participated in innumerable bike rides to raise funding for this cause. In 1996, Uli participated in the Miami to Orlando AIDS Bicycle Ride. From that time on she has ridden in 20 national and local bike rides. Since 2000, she’s been proud to carry the AIDS Memorial Flag. Although many are being saved, millions have died worldwide, and a definitive cure has not yet been found. *Uli’s Journey*, the speaker’s memoir, was published in 2023. The book is the story of her bicycle trek across North America with her loyal canine Jackson. She made the solo cycling trip to raise awareness and funds for amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research.



Uli Schackmann and Jackson

**Sunday, March 17, 10:00 a.m.**

**“The Minorcans Among Us”**

**Darien Andreu**

Service Leader: Margaret Nicholson

Music: Barbara Joy Plattner

Third Sunday: Cash Plate Donation

Food Collection by Youth



The Minorcans—like the Cajuns of Louisiana or the Pennsylvania Dutch—are one of America’s fascinating ethnic groups. Their Florida experience is a very American story of immigration, resilience, and cultural contributions—including Civil War heroes, literary figures, and the datil pepper.

Darien Andreu joined the Department of English at Flagler College in 1987. She has been named Flagler College Teacher of the Year, and twice named Phi Alpha Omega Woman of the Year. For the past two years, she has served as President of the Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings Society. As an undergraduate at Florida State University, she won All-

American honors in track and cross-country. She directs the Minorcan Studies Project at Flagler College, and is currently working on a manuscript focused on Minorcan contributions to American culture.



**Sunday, March 24, 10:00 a.m.**

**“Let the Mystery Be”**

**Cathy DeWitt**

Service Leader: Robin Mahonen

Music: Alex Richman

Family Chalice Lighting

Our speaker will discuss the beauty in leaving some questions unanswered, maintaining a sense of wonder. How do we explain the unexplainable? Our speaker will share several stories from her years of playing music in the hospital setting, as well as other stories of unexplainable occurrences, and talk about synchronicity and liminal space, the places in between.

An eclectic professional musician and keynote speaker, Cathy DeWitt has shared the stage and the airwaves with leaders like Marianne Williamson, authors like Alan Cohen and Bernie Siegel, musical icons including Pete Seeger, Arlo Guthrie and Garrison Keillor. She has been active in the Posi (Positive) Music movement since the early 90s, touring, recording and publishing music. A jazz vocalist and pianist, bluegrass guitarist and folksinger/songwriter, she is the bandleader for the jazz quartet MoonDancer and the all-women's folk/blue-grass band Patchwork, a favorite on the Florida festival circuit. She is an international award winning songwriter and performer, sharing her music throughout the U.S. as well as in the Virgin Islands, Europe, Hawaii, and Greece.



In 1995 she started her unexpected 30-year career with Arts in Medicine at UF Health in Gainesville, Florida, creating and running a renowned Music in Medicine program that uses music to transform the hospital environment and the patient experience. As a consultant, she helps others utilize the healing power of music in their own settings, both corporate and personal. Her presentations have informed and inspired people from all walks of life, creating community with her unique blend of musical skills, spiritual understanding, and compassionate communication. Her upcoming book is *The Five I's: A Guide to Creative Caring at the Bedside*.



# Sunday, March 31, 10:00 a.m.

## “Easter”

### Phillip Baber

Service Leader: Michael Read

Music: Barbara Joy Plattner

Phillip will deliver a uniquely UU perspective on this traditionally Christian holy day.

Phillip Baber is the former pastor of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville and has served as co-president of I.C.A.R.E., the Jacksonville-based Interfaith Coalition for Action, Reconciliation, and Empowerment. Phillip’s ministry is dedicated to the advancement of our collective liberation, leading him to advocate in support of criminal justice reform, police accountability, racial and economic justice, justice for refugees and immigrants, and LGBTQIA+ rights.



## 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](#) (Registration rates increase March 15th.)

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

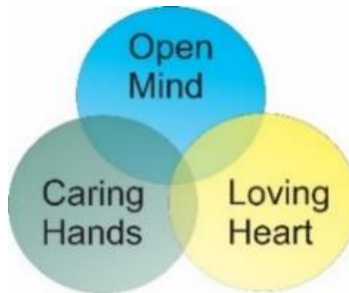
Get all the news about the UUA General Assembly in your inbox - [subscribe now!](#)



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

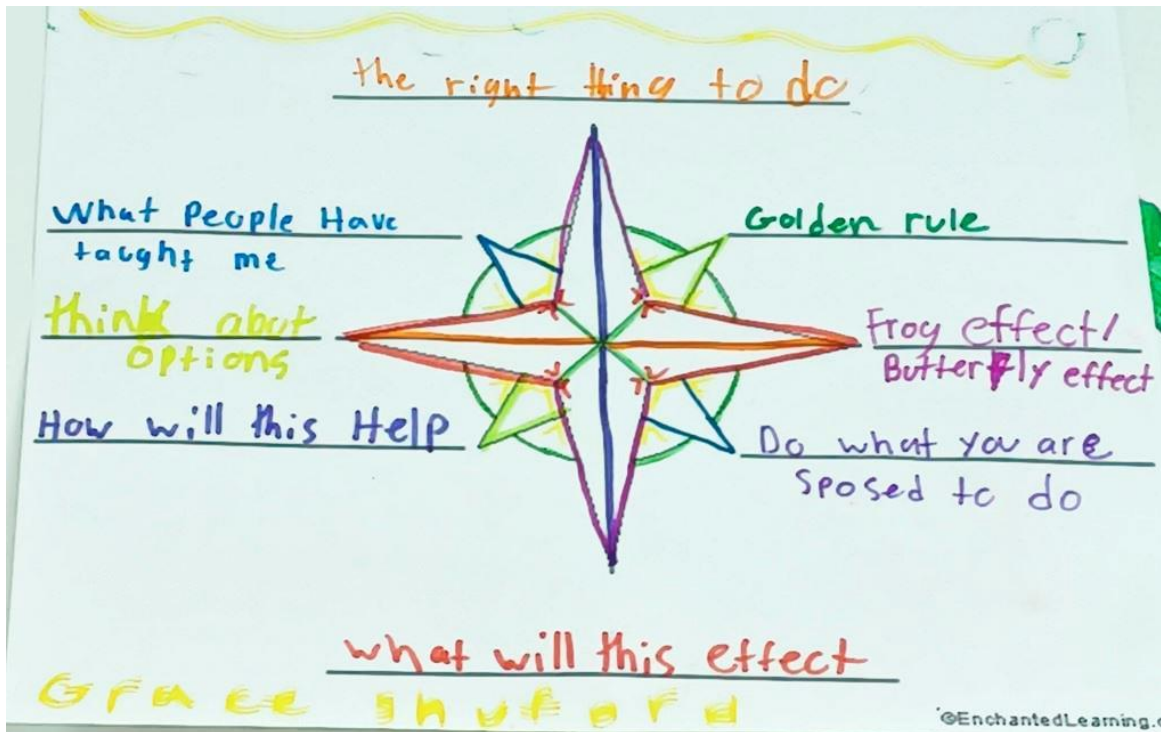


# Programs for Children and Youth



## How is your Moral Compass?

Have you thought about your Moral Compass? Well our kids have. They spent time talking about morality and what they use to make a good decision. Then using a list they made of these things, they constructed their own Moral Compass. The Compasses are posted in the classroom, so please take a look and/or ask the kids. It might spur you in your thoughts about your own Moral Compass. This is only one of the valuable lessons that are being taught by our teacher Ramona in our classroom from our current curriculum "Amazing Grace".



*Ramona, Ayler, Jindy and Barbara*

For more information email: [BattelleBarbara@gmail.com](mailto:BattelleBarbara@gmail.com)

# **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))



## **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).



# 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



## 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 human's most deeply felt association with fellow humans consists in dissociation from them. Robert Musil

What disease did cured ham actually have?

Five guys walk into a bar. You'd think one of them would've seen it.

The older I get, the tighter companies are putting lids on jars.

He had a photographic memory but never developed it.

If you see a crime at an Apple Store, does that make you an iWitness?

# 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.



## 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**

## UUFSA March Events



- 1 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 3 – Food drop-off for Dining with Dignity 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- 3 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 6 – Motion is Lotion
- 8 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 11 – Island Players (play reading group) 5:00 – 8:00
- 12 – Board of Trustees meeting, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- 13 – Motion is Lotion
- 15 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 16 – Deadline for March *Quest* contributions 5:00 p.m.
- 17 – Third Sunday food collection at start of service
- 20 – Motion is Lotion
- 22 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 27 – Motion is Lotion

This calendar includes only UUFSA events. See the **online calendar** at [uufsa.org](http://uufsa.org) for the complete scheduling of UUFSA building use.



# 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

- **Register today for Spring Youth CONferences.** Gather with youth from around the southeast in February and March. <https://www.themountainrlc.org/cons>
- **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 Summit** April 28-May 3 <https://www.themountainrlc.org/2024-climate-justice-summit>
- **Young Adult CONference** May 30-June 2. <https://www.themountainrlc.org/uu-young-adult-con>
- **Summer Camps** are open for registration for kids and adults! <https://www.themountainrlc.org/mountaincamp>
- **Join a passionate Mountain team** and be part of making a difference for individuals and our wider world! Available positions and application at <https://www.themountainrlc.org/jobs> - competitive compensation, including medical insurance and retirement.
- The Roots & Wings Campaign is a generational investment in The Mountain. Our goal is \$3.2 million to improve guest and staff facilities, supporting programs that make a difference for youth and adults across our wider world. **Join us today for this exciting Capital Campaign!** Please complete this **pledge form**: <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 at The Mountain soon.

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

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