

QUEST



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

November 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 December issue are due by November 20.

Don Brandes, Editor: donaldbrandes@gmail.com

Thanks to Michael Read for proofreading.

From Your President



This month, as the media presents stories about safeguarding elections and preserving democracy, I will discuss the meaning of our fellowship being a lay-led, democratically self-governing community.

Our website states that "... authority and responsibility are vested in our members. We create our own bylaws and elect our officers and trustees. Financially self-supporting, we fund most of our operations from member pledges. (Our members)... have a voice and a vote at our congregational meetings. At these, we approve our budget, elect Officers and Trustees from our membership, and decide important matters per our Bylaws. Our members also serve as Committee Members and Chairs. Together, as volunteers, we contribute to the vital flourishing of our multifaceted

community. In participating, we enjoy the opportunity to develop rewarding relationships with fellow members."

In addition to incorporating bylaws as a not-for-profit, religious institution, our fellowship also follows policies and procedures that have been approved by previous Boards and revisions approved by the current Board of Trustees. (Special thanks to member Dave Perkins, who has helped organize these policies and procedures over the years.) These documents may be viewed by current members by sending a request to our secretary Maureen Herth.

The governance structure of the UUFSA is a mix of a direct and representative democracy: direct in the sense that members at the annual meeting vote on the budget, elect officers, trustees, and nominating committee, and approve changes in the bylaws; representative in the sense that the elected Board of Trustees makes day-to-day operational decisions which can be delegated to various committees.

A key element of democracies is that elections determine outcomes, so that the majority, or in some cases super-majority, of voting members' choices overrule the minority members' choices. These decisions occur after a free and respectful discussion of various opinions in meetings according to the precepts of Robert's Rules of Order. Living in a democracy requires occasionally having to abide with majority rule when one is in the minority with the possibility that one eventually may be able to persuade enough members to change their minds to affect the outcome of a future vote.

**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.

November 5: Chris McDermott, mcnoodle55@gmail.com

November 12: Nana Royer, nanaroyer@gmail.com

November 19: Christy Sanford, christy.sanford@gmail.com

November 26: 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.



Sunday, November 5, 10:00 a.m.
“On Palestine and Israel”
Phillip Baber

Service Leader: Chris McDermott
Music: Alex Richman
Story for All Ages

Phillip will share details from his 2022 visit to Palestine and Israel and how that experience has altered his activism among both Jewish and Muslim friends and allies.

Pastor Phillip Baber is well known to this Fellowship. Today he will be joining us via Zoom from his home in Dublin. His ministry emphasizes reconciliation and empowerment. Phillip has served as pastor of the Unitarian Church in Jacksonville and as an interfaith leader in the greater Jacksonville community. Phillip and his family uprooted from Florida last summer and now live in Dublin, Ireland.



Sunday, November 12, 10:00 a.m.
“Harnessing the Power of Inclusion to Build a Better World - A New Global Consciousness”
Dr. Susan Herrera

Service Leader: Nana Royer
Music: Barbara Joy Plattner
This I Believe



The challenges of an interconnected and interdependent world are complex. Culture conflict, social media, artificial intelligence, human migration, polarization, and exclusion are just some of these challenges. Understanding how these challenges affect humanity can open the door to building a more inclusive and globally conscious world, starting in our own community. The diverse cultures of the world represent the threads of humanity that when woven into a tapestry, show the complexity and strength of inclusion. Dr. Herrera will discuss her doctoral research on global competence and global consciousness and how harnessing the power of inclusion can lead to building a better world.

Sunday, November 19, 10:00 a.m.

“Epicurus, Lucretius and Poggio”

**How a third century B.C.E. philosopher gave us modern thought
and a 15th century bibliophile rescued it from oblivion.**

Jerome Fosaaen

Service Leader: Christy Sanford

Music: Alex Richman

Third Sunday: Cash Plate Donation: Wildflower Clinic
Food Collection by Youth



Epicureanism was one of the classical schools of Greek philosophy, along with Stoicism and Skepticism, etc. Modern use of the word Epicure suggests the philosophy was about fine wine and rich living, while in actuality Epicurus taught his followers to live simply. In addition, he taught that one should not fear God or Gods as they don't interfere with human existence and to not fear death. He believed there were natural causes for all phenomena. Unlike most philosophers of his time, Epicurus welcomed all into his school, including women and enslaved people.

Because most of Epicurus's writings were lost, much of what we know about his philosophy comes from references made to his philosophy by other writers, and most importantly a book in verse devoted to Epicurus called *The Nature of Things*, by Lucretius. *The Nature of Things* was itself nearly lost, rescued only in the early 15th century by an unemployed Papal secretary named Poggio Bracciolini

This is the first of two talks, the second of which will be called “Knowledge is Fragile,” to be given in December.

Jerome Fosaaen is familiar to most of you, having served as President of our Board of Trustees twice, and is seen often in the sound booth on Sundays. A UU since 1974, he is retired both from being a dietitian and a business owner.



Sunday, November 26, 10:00 a.m.
“Harvest”

Cindy Bear and Franc Robert

Service Leader: Robin Mahonen

Music: Barbara Joy Plattner

Fourth Sunday: Green Minute

Family Chalice Lighting

Unitarian Universalists have issues with this national holiday. For one, we like to honor the Earth and all her gifts by showing gratitude. On the other hand, we know that the story of the first Thanksgiving is nothing but a fairy tale, for us to feel less guilty about our treatment of the indigenous peoples of this land. Therefore, this Sunday we will celebrate the harvest with music.

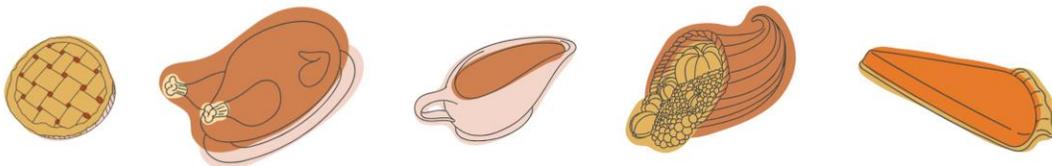


Tis the season to be thankful

UUFGSA Thanksgiving Potluck
Thursday, November 23
From 3pm to 6pm

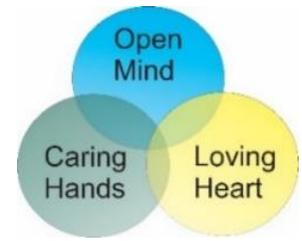
Please RSVP to Christy Sanford
(904-707-3467) with the number of guests
and what dish you plan to contribute.
Further questions or to volunteer to help with
set up or clean up, contact Rosi Angeli
(904-315-4284)

Due to space, we are limited to 65 total guests so please
RSVP as soon as possible.



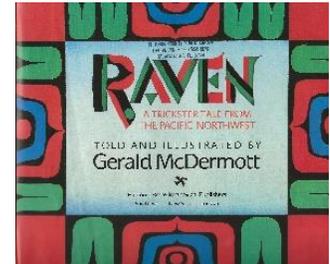
Programs for Children and Youth

Jindy Gelow, Barbara Battelle & Rachel Cross



Thank you to Fiona Duffy and her mom Jennie Whilde for being our September Family Chalice Lighters!

In their classes, our students continued to discuss the ethical and moral challenges they face in their daily lives. They also prepared and presented to the congregation a *Story for All Ages* called *RAVEN* to honor the indigenous story tellers of the Americas. If you missed it, it is archived on our website, UUFSA.ORG. Their next story will be a special Halloween Story.



Kids and teachers alike welcome the cooler weather so they can once again enjoy the outdoor classroom in our back yard.



Weather permitting, our back yard will be the site of the **Halloween/Fall Festival/Fund raiser** our young people are planning for **October 29 immediately following our Sunday Service**. Each Autumn our young people plan a Fall Festival to raise funds for a local charity of their choice. They have now prepared items to sell and be raffled off to support the **Horseplay Therapy Center**.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO A
HALLOWEEN/ FALL FESTIVAL
and Fund Raiser
OCTOBER 29, 2023
IMMEDIATELY AFTER SERVICE IN OUR BACK YARD
ORGANIZED BY OUR UU KIDS**

**FOOD AND DRINK - GAMES -
A RAFFLE FOR CREATIONS BY OUR KIDS**

Costumes are encouraged!

**Our kids are working to make
the world a better place**

**All funds will be donated to
Horseplay Therapy Center
serving children with
special needs and veterans
with PTSD**



Please plan to attend to enjoy refreshments and games and to help support our students' social action efforts.

For more information email: BattelleBarbara@gmail.com

UUFSA Adult Learning

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

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

UUFSA Adult Learning



Understanding the Science of Tomorrow – Myth and Reality

Lecturer: Prof. Jeffrey Grossman-MIT

Welcome! The purpose of this year's bi-weekly UUFSA Adult Education course is to explore the ways new advancements in Science & Technology may radically change the way we live in the future. It is intended for all UU members and friends and does not require a significant background in science or mathematics. All lectures and discussions will take place on Thursdays in the UUFSA basement only. Due to copyright restrictions, they will not be on Zoom).

TOPICS FOR NOVEMBER

November 2 Robotics: Living with Machines
November 30 Microscopes: The Power of Seeing

2023 – 2024 Course Co-Coordinator: Surindar Paracer, Richard Lahey, Jocelyn Breakwell and Trudy Byerly

Go to our website for information about the schedule of future topics:
[Adult Learning \(uufsa.org\)](https://uufsa.org)

November 4, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Film
Sponsored by your Social Justice Team

The Color of Fear

This powerful film will be shown at UUFSA, not online as previously announced.
There will be a conversation with wine & cheese afterward.
Details will be sent via the eblast reminder

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 meets downstairs at the UU on the second 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.

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 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 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 November Calendar



- 2 – Adult Learning 6:00 – 7:30
- 3 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 4 – Zoom discussion “The Color of Fear” 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
- 5 – Food drop-off for Dining with Dignity 4:30 – 5:00 p.m.
- 5 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 7 – Motion is Lotion
- 10 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 12 – UUFSA Island Players (play reading group) 5:00 – 8:00
- 13 – Board of Trustees meeting, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- 14 – Motion is Lotion
- 16 – Adult Learning 6:00 – 7:30, p.m.
- 17 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 17 – Deadline for December *Quest* contributions 5:00 p.m.
- 19 – Third Sunday food collection at start of service
- 21 – Motion is Lotion
- 24 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 27 – Motion is Lotion

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.

Did you hear about the restaurant on the moon? Great food; no atmosphere.

At a job interview the manager told the applicant: “The starting pay is \$40,000. Later it can go up to \$80,000.” The applicant said: “Great. I’ll start later.”

The would-be philosopher claimed that, using a posteriori reasoning, his neighbor’s rooster caused the sun to rise, for sunrise always occurred after the rooster’s crowing.

As I’ve gotten older, people think I’ve become lazy. The truth is I’m just being more energy efficient.

Did you hear about the restaurant on the moon? Great food; no atmosphere.

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.

All too often I find I rub someone the wrong way. I wish I knew how to rub people the right way.

Elon Musk wants to “occupy Mars.” Is he looking for prime real estate?

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 Youth CONferences!** Gather with youth from around the southeast. <https://www.themountainrlc.org/cons>
Peer Advocate Leaders (PAL) training Oct 20-22, Age 16+ [apply today!](#)
Elementary CON – Nov 3-5
Intermediate CON – Nov 17-19
High School CON – Dec 1-3
- [Personal Retreats](#) -- Join us in the cool mountain air, combine a personal retreat with a farm or other event and local explorations.
- Registration is open for [Grateful Gathering](#) - **Thanksgiving weekend, Wednesday, November 22 - Sunday, November 26.** [Gather with friends and family for community, learning, and explorations.](#)
- **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._

We look forward to seeing you at The Mountain soon!

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