

QUEST



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

September 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 October issue are due by September 22.

Don Brandes, Editor: donaldbrandes@gmail.com

Thanks to Michael Read for proofreading.



From Your President



As incoming President of the Board of Trustees of the UUFSA, I want to welcome all of you back this September as we renew our Sunday morning services. The Board has continued to meet this summer. One of the topics we have been addressing is the importance of feeling safe and secure in order to participate in a loving congregation.

According to FBI statistics, 34 hate crimes occurred at churches/synagogues/temples/mosques in Florida between 2016 and 2021, the most recent year reports are available. However, in Florida, 2021 FBI Hate Crime statistics were based on data received from 248 of 757 law enforcement agencies. Therefore, there is an underreporting of hate crimes.

National media reports have highlighted the tragic, horrific shootings at the churches in Charleston, SC (2015), Sutherland Springs, TX (2017), White Settlement, TX (2019), Vestavia Hills, AL (2022), Laguna Woods, CA (2022), and the synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA (2018). In 2008, two people died and several were injured at the Tennessee Valley UU church in Knoxville, TN by a gunman, who left a letter in his car stating that “he was motivated by hatred of liberals, democrats, African Americans, and homosexuals.”

Although church shootings are rare, hate crimes are more common and underreported in Florida. The Anti-Defamation League has recorded 42 anti-Semitic and anti-LGBTQ+ incidents in Florida from January 1st to April 1st, 2023. The perpetrators, when identified, have been Right Wing (White Supremacists).

To be a welcoming congregation, I believe we need to help our members, friends, and guests feel safe and secure in our building. The Board is taking active steps including installing a push bar and automatic flush bolts on our front doors, which will allow us to lock our doors during Sunday Service, and surveillance video cameras at our entrances. More details to follow.

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.

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.

September 10: Robin Mahonen, RRafael2@aol.com

September 17: Gina Jonas, gina.jonas@gmail.com

September 24: Margaret Nicholson, send2me@bellsouth.net

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, September 10, 10:00 a.m.
“Water Communion”
Bear and Robert

(Cindy Bear and Franc Robert)

Service Leader: Robin Mahonen

Music: Alex Richman

Second Sunday: “This I Believe” – Jeff Sills

Welcome back from our summer break everyone! Please join us for our traditional UU Water Communion. We look forward to sharing our water together in our communal bowl. Bear and Robert are joining us again with their original water songs. Bear and Robert are Cindy Bear and Franc Robert, an award winning singer-songwriter duo from Jacksonville, Florida. Together their acoustic sound has been described as a deep well of Folk, Blues and Americana with a splash of high energy je ne sais quoi. Their catchy melodies, their toe-tapping rhythms and soulful lyrics will touch your heart in many different ways and will always leave you wanting more.

<http://www.bearandrobert.com>



Sunday, September 17, 10:00 a.m.
“Faithfully Becoming”
Rev. Dr. Dan King

(Video Presentation)

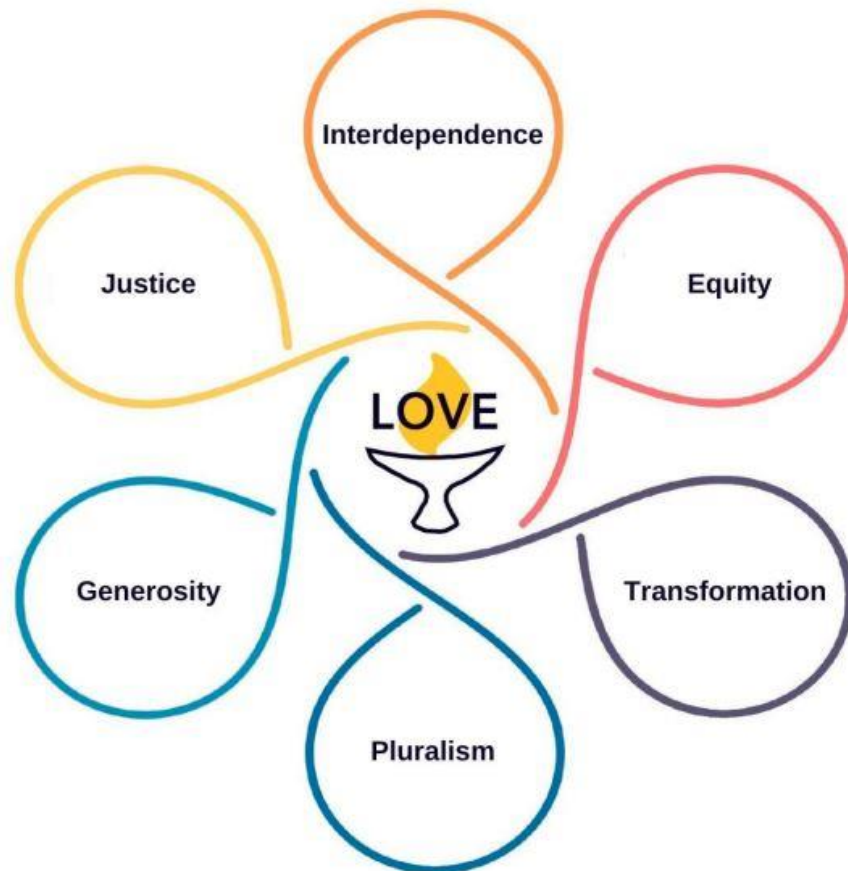
Service Leader: Gina Jonas

Music: Barbara Joy Plattner

Food Collection by Youth

Third Sunday: Cash Plate Donation – Food Pantry

This talk was presented to a Houston UU church immediately after the vote on the proposed revision of Article II - the statement of Unitarian Universalism's core purposes and principles. It was approved by nearly 84% at this year's General Assembly. It will be voted on again next year, and, to be adopted, needs a 75% approval. Given the numbers, that's likely. This talk is about what it means to change, to accept a change that for many will be considered and felt as a loss. This is a thoughtful and inspiring talk! Discussion will follow.



Sunday, September 24, 10:00 a.m.
“Golden Way: Films That Make a Difference
&
Making a Difference in Retirement”
Joe Marx

Service Leader: Margaret Nicholson
Music: Alex Richman



Joe Marx: *“When I retired, I arrived in St. Augustine with a burning question: “What am I going to do with the rest of my life?” The answer came with the formation of the St. Augustine Film Society that led to the creation of The Golden Way Initiative. We offer free showings of documentaries, docudramas, and fictional films that address social issues. The films are followed with reflections and discussions led by guest speakers and/or panelists. Partnering with other organizations allows us to achieve this. Last year, The Golden Way partnered with the UU for a three-week series on the PBS documentary: Race – the Power of an Illusion.”*

Following a 35-year career as an analytical chemist and operations manager of a chemical company in the Northeast, Joe turned off that side of his brain, retired to Florida in 2003 with his wife Andrea, and began dabbling in more artistic pursuits. Joe had taken electives in film history and always enjoyed going to the movies. He befriended a Professor of Film Studies at Flagler College. Together, they formed the St. Augustine Film Society in 2012 as a 501.c.3 non-profit whose mission is to screen intellectually stimulating foreign and independent films of high artistic value to residents and visitors in northeast Florida. He is President of the St. Augustine Film Society and Executive Director of The Golden Way: Films That Make a Difference.



Seeking Participants for This I Believe

From September until June, during the second Sunday of the month, a member takes about five minutes during the service to finish this sentence: ***I am a Unitarian Universalist and this is what I believe ...***

This I Believe was originally a five-minute program, hosted by journalist Edward R. Murrow from 1951 to 1955 on CBS Radio. The show encouraged both famous and everyday people to write short essays and then read them on the air. The reasons for the project were said to be obvious: "...the uncertainty of the economic future, the shadow of war, the atom bomb, army service for one's self or loved ones, the frustration of young people facing the future."

Groups have adapted *This I Believe* for their own purposes. Unitarian Universalism, in contrast to many religions, does not hold a fixed set of beliefs. Instead, members maintain a variety of beliefs about the origin of life, whether a life purpose is a meaningful concept, the relevance of physical death, and so on. Individual beliefs both influence and reflect what others in the group believe. Our *This I Believe* segment gives you the opportunity to think through and share your beliefs.

Please let me know if you would like a place on the calendar or if you are thinking about participating some months from now.

Margaret Nicholson

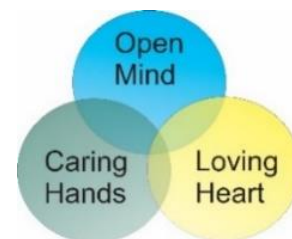
Tel: 904 797-6022 (texts don't work)

send2me@bellsouth.net



Programs for Children and Youth

Jindy Gelow and Barbara Battelle



Our Programs for Children and Youth resume September 10, 2023! We look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new young people.

We are particularly excited this year to welcome to our program a new Lead Teacher, Ramona Jaramillo (they/them)! They will be joined by Ayler Sostrom (she/her) who is returning this year as Assistant Teacher. Ramona and Ayler will make a wonderful team to guide our young people in a year filled with fun, learning and growth.



Ramona Jaramillo



Ayler Sostrom

In their classes. Classes will take place both indoors and in our outdoor classroom. Our backyard gardens, which are now irrigated and ready for a fall planting!

Nursery through preschool. A nurturing environment is provided for children to interact with other children and adults, and to explore ideas through books, music, art, and construction materials. Through entertaining and age-appropriate materials, we introduce children to our UU Principles.

School-aged young people. The goal of all our classes is to encourage students to think deeply and to guide them as they shape their own answers to big questions. This year, classes will be developed based on two UUA curricula, **Amazing Grace** (https://www.uua.org/sites/live-new.uua.org/files/grace_column.pdf) and **Miracles** (<https://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/multigenerational/miracles>). **Amazing Grace** will help our young people understand right and wrong and act on their new understanding. It will equip them for moving safely and productively through middle and high school years, when they will be continually tugged toward both ends of the ethics continuum. **Miracles** is designed for a wide age span of young people, and it provides a prolonged encounter with awe and wonder with frequent opportunities for scientific exploration. Through stories and hands-on activities, our young people will engage in defining and discerning the miraculous and discover their own agency for miracle making.

In the Sanctuary. Our services begin with families together in the sanctuary for chalice lighting and welcoming words after which the young people go to their own class. Our youngest children may start in their classroom.

Once each month our children participate in an intergenerational story in the sanctuary, help gather non-perishable food donations for the local Ecumenical Food Pantry and, with their parents, serve as chalice lighters.

Festivals and Social action. Our young people plan to continue hosting festivals for the entire UUFSA membership and engage in social action. No one is too young to make a difference.

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 the new 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 SEPTEMBER

- (1) 9/7/2023: *Magnetism* – Theory and Applications
- (2) 9/21/2023: *Transportation* – Electric Vehicle Infrastructure, etc.

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)

The background of the slide is a repeating pattern of autumn-themed illustrations. It includes various types of leaves in shades of red, orange, yellow, and brown. There are also acorns, some with caps, and pumpkins in warm tones. The pattern is set against a light cream background.

All are invited to the
UUFSA Autumn Potluck
Sunday, Sept 24 after Service
Please bring a dish to share
Drinks will be provided

Sponsored by your Social Justice Team



A Fall Film Series

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

October 7th: “Dare Not Walk Alone” (2008, history of civil rights efforts in St. Augustine) at UUFSA.

- 79 minutes
- Panel: Prof. Mike Butler (Flagler), historian David Nolan (he was there!)
- Wine & cheese afterwards

October 21st: “The Piano Lesson” (film adaption of the August Wilson Pulitzer-prize winning play, 1987) at UUFSA.

- 95 minutes
- Panel: Regina Gayle Phillips (Lincolntonville Museum & Cultural Museum), Twila Hudson (actress)
- Wine & cheese afterwards

November 4th: “The Color of Fear”

- 90 minutes
- Lee Mun Wah, an expert in cross-cultural and cross-racial communication, and the producer of the film, will introduce, show, and facilitate our discussion.
- This is a Zoom event.



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 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.

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 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 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 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 September Calendar



- 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.
- 7 – Adult Learning 6:00 – 7:30
- 8 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 10 – UUFSA Island Players (play reading group) 5:00 – 8:00
- 11 – Board of Trustees meeting, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- 15 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 17 – Third Sunday food collection at start of service
- 21 – Adult Learning 6:00 – 7:30, p.m.
- 22 – Deadline for October *Quest* contributions 5:00 p.m.
- 22 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 24 – Autumn Potluck 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
- 29 – 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.

House cleaner in response to homeowner's criticism: "I always leave some dirt to show I'm not perfect and won't succumb to hubris."

I told my physical therapist that I broke my arm in two places. He told me to stop going to those places.

Why do ghosts love elevators? Because it lifts their spirits.

What do you call a pig with laryngitis? Disgruntled.

What did the surgeon say to the patient who insisted on closing up her own incision? Suture self.

What's the leading cause of dry skin? Towels.

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

- **Plan now for Youth CONferences!** Gather with youth from around the southeast.
Peer Advocate Leaders (PAL) training October 20-22, apply here - <https://www.themountainrlc.org/cons-application>
Elementary CON – November 3-5
Intermediate CON – Nov 17-19
High School CON – Dec 1-3
- Tasty and educational **Forest to Table Dinner, including tour of Many Hands Peace Farm - Sunday, September 10 and Sunday, October 8**
<https://www.themountainrlc.org/farm-events>
- **Personal Retreats** -- Join us in the cool mountain air; combine a personal retreat with a farm or other event and local explorations.
- Save the Date 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 <https://www.themountainrlc.org/jobs> - competitive compensation, including medical insurance and retirement.

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