

QUEST



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

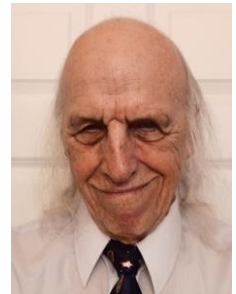
June 2024

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.

30th Anniversary Edition

Actually, I am not sure if it is exactly 30 years since the beginning of the *Quest* but I do know that I have been publishing the *Quest* for ten years as of this month. Nana Royer did it for ten years before me. I think it was another ten years before that when Bill Wilke originated the *Quest*. This publication has had only three editors in its entire 30 year history and I intend to keep doing it for the foreseeable future. It gives me a good excuse for not being an officer.



Don

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The *Quest* is published monthly September through July.

Materials for the July-August issue are due by June 22.

Don Brandes, Editor: donaldbrandes@gmail.com

Thanks to Mick Read for proofreading.

**UUFSA Annual
Member Meeting**

**Sunday
June 9, 2024
After Service**

**Please plan to attend our
Annual Membership Meeting
on Sunday, June 9th after
Service. We will be voting
on important issues
including the 2024-2025
Budget and Slate of Officers.**

**You can attend in person or
on Zoom.**

Your  matters!

From Your President



The UUFSA year begins on July 1. Planning for the upcoming fellowship year has already started. The membership is invited to the annual meeting scheduled for Sunday, June 9, immediately following Sunday morning service. During this meeting, votes for Officers, Trustees, and Nominating Committee members will be taken and the annual Treasurer's report will be presented followed by the proposed operating budget for the upcoming year, which will need to be approved by the membership after discussion. The Board is proposing two Bylaw amendments requiring the approval of 2/3 of the members present at the meeting in person or remotely by Zoom. All this information will be sent to members at least two weeks prior to the meeting. I hope that you are planning to attend this important meeting

Additional information sent to the membership will be the annual reports from our committees and teams. I would like to include some of the highlights from this year for the readers of the Quest. Our fellowship serves the greater community in several ways. We contract with the Florida Department of Transportation to periodically pick up litter along a two-mile stretch of A1A by our church, we provide and serve food at Dining with Dignity in downtown Saint Augustine on the first Sunday of the month, and volunteer at the ecumenical Food Pantry every Friday. Representatives from our fellowship actively participate with other community organizations involved in Social Justice initiatives and we are represented at the Saint Augustine Interfaith Community.

We diligently continue to beautify, maintain, and improve our building, which has two accessible floors without the need for an elevator. Acoustic panels were installed downstairs last summer, and new carpeting will be installed upstairs later this year. For our safety and security, an emergency exit push bar and automatic flush bolts were installed on our front doors along with two security cameras at our entrance, which allow us to lock the front doors during our services.

Our Sunday morning service team organizes interesting presentations both in person and remotely thanks to our AV team. Children are cared for and taught by engaging teachers. As I complete my year as President, I want to thank all our volunteers who generously contribute their time, talents and resources.

**In fellowship,
Fred Dolgin**

<p>904-687-4018 fdolgin@bellsouth.net</p>
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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.

June 2: Christy Sanford, christy.sanford@gmail.com

June 9: Chris McDermott, mcnoodle55@gmail.com

June 16: Robin Mahonen, RRafael2@aol.com

June 23: Gina Jonas, gina.jonas@gmail.com

June 30: 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, June 2, 10:00 a.m.
**“Graduate Training in Science:
The Challenges, Hopes and Fears about
What Might Lie Ahead”**
Alicia Boyd

Service Leader: Christy Sanford

Music: Alex Richman

First Sunday: Story for All Ages



Alicia Boyd is a PhD candidate at UF's Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience. Originally from Nampa, Idaho, Alicia has traded the mountains and desert for the beaches and flat greenery of Florida. Alicia earned her bachelor's degree in Genetics and Biotechnology from Brigham Young University in Utah. As an undergraduate she studied the genome of cotton in a lab on campus. She also participated in marine ecology research as part of a marine biology course on the Oregon Coast. After graduation she worked for the U.S. Forest Service at their Shrub Genetics lab in Provo, Utah. During her time with the Forest Service she helped distinguish between three subspecies of sagebrush for fire conservation purposes.

After years of playing with plants, Alicia was ready to merge her interests of marine organisms with genetics research and sought a graduate degree at Whitney lab. At Whitney, Alicia studies a marine worm, called *Capitella teleta*. This worm is able to regenerate its tail, but not its head. In December of 2023, Alicia published a paper in the journal of *Invertebrate Biology* characterizing whether *Capitella teleta* worm larvae can regenerate or not. (Spoiler: they cannot.) She found that following amputation of the tail, the larvae show the beginning stages of regeneration (e.g. can heal their wounds) but aren't able to fully replace the lost body parts. Her current project is to develop a new genetic tool, called transgenics, for *Capitella teleta*. She plans to use the tool to make stem cells fluoresce and watch them react to amputation in living animals. Her hope is to show that the stem cells don't move in larvae while they do in older worms; providing a reason for why she saw a different response to amputation in larvae by juveniles and adults. When she's not busy in the lab, Alicia can be found baking a yummy treat, exploring the Florida parks with her husband, or dreaming of dogs her landlord won't let her own.

Sunday, June 9, 10:00 a.m.
“Divine Rhythms: Dancing Towards Unity”
Adam Morley

Service Leader: Chris McDermott

Music: Barbara Joy Plattner

This I Believe

Join us for an uplifting and spiritually enriching dance sermon led by Adam Morley, where we'll explore the sacred art of movement and connection through various dance styles. From the sway of the Cha Cha to West Coast Swing, we'll delve into the footwork of 5 different “lead and follow” dances, celebrating the unity and harmony found in rhythm and motion. Let your spirit soar as we move together towards a deeper understanding of ourselves and each other, guided by the universal language of dance. All are welcome to join in this journey of self-expression and connection.



Adam Morley is a St. Augustine native and person of many passions and interests. Adam is known as the founder of ANJ Recycling Service, a Captain for St. Augustine Eco Tours, a social dance instructor, a candidate for State House and the owner and operator of Gering’s Fish Camp in Crescent Beach. He was awarded the 2017 Living Green Award from the Florida Wildlife Federation and while he is proud of his years of local community service, what he is most proud of is his wife, Janine, and their son, Elon, who is his inspiration to take care of this beautiful planet we call home.

Sunday, June 16, 10:00 a.m.

“Healthy Minds & Healthy Families”

Sandra Perez and Lisa Cruz

Service Leader: Robin Mahonen

Music: Alex Richman

Food Collection by Youth

Third Sunday Plate Donation: Food Pantry

We will be discussing the issues surrounding healthy and dysfunctional families during the traumatic period of parental divorce and separation of children from their formerly intact families. There are organizations and services to help families cope during this difficult time.

Sandra Perez was born in Puerto Rico and brought to live in New York City before she was one year old. She was married for 18 years and gave birth to 4 children. Her family has grown to 9 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren, who spend vacations and holidays with her. She graduated from Cornell University's Women Labor Studies Program in 1983. For 40 years she worked as a political community activist in NYC, with Community Boards and for the NYC Mayors Office as Community Liaison representing the Borough of Brooklyn, under the Mayor Dinkins Administration. She is currently Co-Founder and Vice President of the Board of Directors of Healthy Minds & Healthy Families First Inc., working to bring about compassionate services to separated parents by assisting them with wrap around counseling, co-parenting classes, and supervised visitations, trying to bring about change so that parents love their children more than they hate each other. She has always been interested in helping people and when there's a problem she wants to be part of the solution. She has worked as an Immigration Paralegal and director of the NYC Mennonite Church Immigration Program for ten years, until she retired to Kissimmee 12 years ago, and worked as Oversight Minister for the NYC Mennonite Church.



Lisa Cruz was born in Bronx and raised in Brooklyn. The first half of her life was spent amidst the vibrant energy of New York before embarking on a journey to the sunshine state. Her professional journey began in allied health, particularly in dentistry, where she dedicated herself for over three decades. During her time at the Florida Public Health Department she unearthed her true passion:



advocating for the vitality of healthy families. This newfound passion was ignited by personal experience, and it catalyzed her transition into healthy families. Championing healthy families and mental health advocacy are intertwined; one cannot be pursued without the other. In 2021, she seized the opportunity to merge these passions into fulfilling endeavors, and enrolled in classes with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and obtained certifications to facilitate both Family to Family and Family Support group classes. Concurrently, she serves as a mental health advocate for NAMI, advocating at both city and state levels. She is also committed to raising awareness about parental alienation and nurturing healthy family relationships, holding an active certificate as a supervised visitation professional for children of separated families.

Sunday, June 23, 10:00 a.m.
“The ‘Noble Savage’ and its Relevance Today”
Michael Read

Service Leader: Gina Jonas
Music: Barbara Joy Plattner
Fourth Sunday: Green Minute
Family Chalice Lighting



Who was the "noble savage?" What traits make this creature "noble?" Are certain characteristics attributed to this creature worthy of consideration and even emulation today?

Michael Read was born in Sydney, Australia. Michael studied at various universities in Europe, including the University of Vienna, the Sorbonne and Tübingen. In the U.S., he completed his studies in Comparative Literature at the University of Washington in Seattle. There he received a Ph.C. (Doctoral Candidacy), but finally chose not to complete his dissertation. Michael embarked upon a teaching career, teaching at the University of Washington, Seattle Central Community College, and at a private academy for the children of Chinese Americans. Michael is a member of the UUFSA and enjoys

reading, writing, playing the guitar and composing songs, especially ones connected with social and political issues.

Sunday, June 30, 10:00 a.m.
“Flower Communion”
Phillip Baber

Service Leader: Robin Mahonen
Music: Alex Richman

The Flower Communion symbolizes the uniqueness of each individual, and the coming together in communion to share this uniqueness. Phillip Baber will tell us more about the Flower Communion and Norbert Capek, who developed the Flower Communion. Capek founded the first Unitarian church in Czechoslovakia, and was later arrested by the Gestapo in 1942, taken to Dachau, where he was tortured and later gassed.

Bring a flower, and take home a different flower!

Pastor Phillip Baber is well known to this Fellowship and is a strong advocate of social justice. His ministry emphasizes Reconciliation and Empowerment in the Judeo-Christian tradition. In years past, Phillip served as pastor of the Unitarian Church in Jacksonville, and as an interfaith leader in greater Jacksonville. Some months ago, Phillip and his family moved to Dublin. Besides being a devoted husband and father, Phillip continues his scholarly research and writing.



Summer Services Planned "Voices from Our Past"

This summer I will be facilitating informal Sunday services. Don Brandes and I have been digitizing cassette tape recordings of vintage services, many of which were given by founding members. I will select and present some of these talks for six Sundays of the break from normal services. These will be abbreviated services, without music and some of the other regular components of services.

Because we wish to be welcoming of families with children, but we have not budgeted for teachers for the summer, we hope to find volunteers who would be available to provide childcare should families with children attend.

Should you wish to help with the summer services in any way, please contact me.

Jerome Fosaaen
904-417-7111

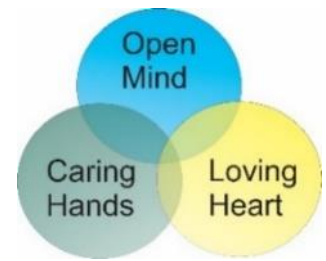
Water Communion August 18

Please remember to collect water during the summer for our traditional UU Water Communion, which will be held on Sunday, August 18 this year. Your water will join water collected in previous years by members of our fellowship, to remind us that although we are different in our beliefs, we are all Unitarian Universalists!



Programs for Children and Youth Supporting Families

Schools have closed for the summer, and most of our families are scattering for new adventures. So the last formal class for our young people will be the last Sunday in May. Nevertheless, members of the Fellowship will be available throughout the summer to work informally with young people who may attend. We will resume formal classes mid-August.



It has been a great year for our children’s program thanks to our wonderful teachers and our great kids.

They brought us wonderful Stories for All Ages:



They hosted Fall and Spring Festivals which raised funds for non-profit organizations of their own choosing: HorsePlay Therapy Center (\$246) and the Lincolnville Cultural Center (\$350).

In their classes, lessons were taken from the UUA’s **Amazing Grace** curriculum which challenged our young people to explore ways to understand right from wrong and work through difficult ethical scenarios they may face in their everyday life. This curriculum involved a lot of roll-playing, which our young people very much enjoyed.

During the summer, Jindy Gelow and Barbara Battelle, co-chairs of the UUFSA’s Programs for Children and Youth, in consultation with parents and our wonderful teachers, will be busy planning for the coming year. Once curricula are selected, this information will be posted on the UUFSA.ORG web site.

We are delighted to announce that our wonderful Teacher Ramona and Assistant Teacher Ayler will be with us again in the coming year, so we look forward to another great year of fun and learning.



Teacher Ramona
They/Them

Assistant Ayler
She/Her

We wish all of our families a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing all of you in August.

Ramona, Ayler, Jindy and Barbara

For more information email: BattelleBarbara@gmail.com

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,
Michael Read,

Maureen Herth, Co-Chair,
Marsha Williams,

Anne Wilke,
Trudy Byerly

**The Care Connection is seeking new members!
If you're interested in joining this essential and supportive committee,
reach out to either Rosemary Wheeler or Maureen Herth.**

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.



Darts

Join Chris McDermott for friendly games of darts on the third Friday of every month from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., downstairs at the Fellowship.

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 \(square site\)](#)

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.



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 June Events



- 2 – Dining with Dignity 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- 6 – Motion is Lotion
- 7 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 8 – Island Players (play reading group) 5:00 – 8:00
- 10 – Board of Trustees meeting, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- 13 – Motion is Lotion
- 14 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 15 – Darts 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- 20 – Motion is Lotion
- 21 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- 21 – Deadline for July-August *Quest* contributions 5:00 p.m.
- 27 – Motion is Lotion
- 28 – Food Pantry 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

This calendar includes only UUFSA events. See the **online calendar** at uufsa.org for the complete scheduling of UUFSA building use.

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](#)

[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

The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center



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

- **Join our passionate Mountain team** and be part of making a difference for individuals and our wider world! We have opportunities for Camp Counselors, Development Director, Facilities Director and more! Check out our available positions and apply at www.themountainrlc.org/jobs
- **Summer Camps** are open for registration for youth and adults! www.themountainrlc.org/mountaincamp
- Our **Roots & Wings Capitol Campaign** is a generational investment in The Mountain. Our goal is to raise \$3.2 million for improvements to guest and staff facilities and supporting programs that make a difference for youth and adults across our wider world. **Join us today for this exciting Capital Campaign!** You can find the **pledge form** right here: <http://www.bit.ly/MtnPledge>

We look forward to seeing you soon!

themountainrlc.org 828.526.5838

Mountain newsletter: sign-up at the bottom of the home page:

<https://www.themountainrlc.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/TheMountainNC/>

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