



WEEKLY CONTACT

September 6, 2015

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

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SUNDAY EVENTS, SEPTEMBER 6, 2015

*** 10:30 a.m. "Security Deposit - Reflections on 9/11,"** Preston Boyd

For 24 years, Preston Boyd taught drama and music and served as the Director of Global Education at Saint Stephen's School in Bradenton. He has been active in the Sarasota/Bradenton community for many years as a theatre director, actor, musician, and board member. Preston joins us today along with his wife, Priscilla, and their oldest son, Dorian.

*** 9:30 a.m. Forum: "Being of Two Minds" - Split Brain Research Finding**

Roger Sperry won the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1981 for demonstrating that the two halves of the human brain (the cerebral hemispheres) were uniquely different. Studies of patients that have had the primary connection between the two halves severed show that each half is independently conscious and has a mind of its own. Could we simultaneously be an atheist and a believer? A Republican and a Democrat? What are the implications for the concept of "self"? Forum to discuss the implications of the fascinating findings in recent split brain research.

Moderator: Don Diddams; Presenter: Dr. Dale Anderson

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

10:30 a.m. Religious Education for Young People

* **Nursery:** Loving care for infants and toddlers is available.

* **We're creating a wall hanging!** Each child creates a square of fabric with what's important to them. Their first name is added and will be combined in a wall hanging for the West Wing.

OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS

* **Stop in at the opening reception for Jackie Peters Cully and her "New Works" exhibit of brilliant acrylic paintings at 11:30 AM, this Sunday, September 6th in the Lexow Wing Gallery.** Early in her career, Jackie Peters Cully defied convention, moved to New York, and made history by becoming the first professional Black woman textile stylist with a studio of her own. More recently she became known in Sarasota for her mixed media installations and acrylic paintings. This exhibit will include some of the brilliantly colorful paintings she has completed this year. Don't miss it!

ADULT EDUCATION

Do you have special talents? This is the time to step up and share your talents with others for our fall season of Adult Programs. We make it easy for you. Just contact us to discuss your idea for a new "Adult Program" and we will help you all the way. Need inspiration? Just look on the bulletin board or on the church web site for present classes offered. All ideas are welcomed. Co-chair, DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com 350-3571

* **Writing Your Life Story** is a class which invites members to begin writing their own life story. There are two classes and we are accepting registrations for the new session. Each week, members write a two-page story, which they then share with the entire class.

Email June Braggalla at juneb22@comcast.net for the class meeting on Monday afternoons, 1-3 p.m. starting September 14.

Contact John Yoder, iamjohnyoder@gmail.com, for the class on Tuesday afternoons, 1:30-3:30 p.m. beginning September 8.

Fee for either class is \$5 per semester.

* **Spiritual Book Group** - chose the book *A New Earth* by Eckhart Tolle as their first selection. Read the book and come to our next meeting on **Monday, September 7** from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the Library. Questions? Call Sue Cohen at 952-3466.

* **Religious Literacy Dialog**

A Universe from Nothing: Why there is Something Rather than Nothing by Lawrence M. Krauss is our study book at our Wednesday dialogs from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in the West Wing sponsored by Advocates for Religious Literacy. We also discuss contributions by individuals as well as articles from Westar Institute's Fourth R Magazine. If you can't attend, you can participate by signing up for our email list. You can read the thoughts of others and share your own ideas if you so desire. No advanced reading is required. To sign up for the email list, or for additional information contact David Ryan at d2mryan@verizon.net or 365-4027.

* **Don't Forget About Me**

Couples, when you invite friends for an evening out or dinner in, how often do you invite Single Friends? "Not so often," say some singles in our church who want more social connections. Can we put aside social habits and be more mindful of each other? Yes, we can. DeeAnna Dowdle

* **The Bicycling Group** will next ride on September 12 at 8:30 a.m. Depending on interests of the group, we ride for 1-2 hours . . . and leisurely enough to have conversations! Sometimes we stop for breakfast along the way. We always choose bike paths or sidewalks and try to avoid busier streets. At 8:30 we are also getting on the road before the day really heats up. Call Nancy Saum for more information, 703-297-1749. Or email nancy.saum@gmail.com with your contact information to receive details of the ride.

CARING

* **The Jefferson Center** at 930 N. Tamiami Trail was founded by members of our church in the early 1960's. It is a senior living facility for middle income people that provides 209 apartments consisting of studio and one bedroom units. It is located next to the Players Theater.

JC is managed by an Administrator and a Board of Trustees. Currently members/friends of our church who serve the Board are Dick Happy, Mariano Vera, Jim Keeney, Shan Mohammed, Susan Brucklacher, Paul Lewis, Don St. Clair and Dee Widder.

We are proud to be a part of this facility. Applications are available in the Lexow Wing.

* **Haven't seen someone you know?** Please give them a call and let Dee Widder know, with their permission, if there's a health problem.

* **The Caring Committee** offers short term help with rides, meals and companionship. If you are having surgery and would like us to be in touch, please contact Dee Widder at 377-9028 or DeanaWidder@gmail.com. If you can offer a ride to a doctor's appointment or to church or need a ride, please contact Marcia Ryan at 365-4027.

* **Would you like to honor a friend** who passed away or someone who made your day a little brighter or celebrate a birthday, anniversary or your grandchild's accomplishment? Make a Tribute donation today and send your check, with a Tribute form, to the office. Forms are available in the office and online. The Tribute will be acknowledged in the Contact.

OUR COMMUNITY

* A touch of New England Fall Color? In our old home state of Vermont, the seasonal turning of the leaves provides a lovely palette of red, yellow and purple colors for the legions of flatlanders who are drawn to the Vermont countryside to "leaf peep" and "ooh and aah" at the brilliantly colored leaves. Well, we cannot transport you to Vermont, and we haven't imported any Vermont maples, but we do have our very own "leaf peeping" available for viewing for color deprived northerners. Seated on the left side of the Sanctuary and looking straight ahead one will see a brilliant red and gold flowering tropical shrub, called the "Pride of Barbados". As an extra benefit, one might even see a bright yellow sulfur butterfly flit through. (Vermont can't match the butterflies). Oh, and please don't forget to listen to the sermon! Dick and Diane Happy

* **We pride ourselves on being a church with a green sanctuary.** That involves using ceramic mugs for our coffee hour. We have a sterilizer in the kitchen and the job of cleaning cups is not too strenuous, but we need volunteers. How about you? You can sign up for a given Sunday each month, or you can be a "wait" list volunteer for special times of need. Contact: June Braggalla, juneb22@comcast.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS

* **There will be a Second Sunday Picnic Potluck on Sunday, September 13.** There was not enough food available for the August Potluck. Please remember to bring food to serve 8 people: salads, sandwiches, desserts or other foods that do not need to be heated. If you are a first-time visitor, please join us and you do not need to bring food.

* **"Discovering UUCS" - A Newcomer Orientation**
Saturday, October 3, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Lexow Wing

If you are considering membership, this workshop is for you. Reverend Fritts will discuss our history and explore with you what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist and a member of this church. Some of our church leaders will join us for lunch to talk about the many activities here and to get acquainted with you. The Membership Committee provides lunch. Be sure to sign up at the Welcome Center!

* **Get Together Dinners**

Now is the time to sign up for our Fall Get Together Dinners. The dates are Oct 24, Nov 28, and Dec 26. It is a great way to get to know new friends at the church and/or reacquaint with old friends. The dinners, usually 6 to 12 people, are held in people's homes. The host provides the main dish and guests bring the sides, hors d'oeuvres, and dessert. Registration forms are available at the Get Together Dinner table in the courtyard or save paper and register online www.uusarasota.org

Deadline for registering is **September 27**.

Carole Malone, John Brackett, Alice Carden, and Jeanie Craig
Get Together Dinners Committee

OUR COMMITMENTS - SOCIAL JUSTICE

The UUCS Social Justice Committee addresses issues of homelessness and hunger, economic justice, human rights and the health of our planet. To learn more, attend our noon meeting on the second Tuesday of the month, join the mailing list at justice@uusarasota.org or stop by the Social Justice table on Sunday.

* **Social Justice Committee meeting, Tues., September 8 at noon in the Lexow Wing.** Visitors, regulars and the curious are all welcome. Special guest Margie Dawson from Turning Points will thank us for the congregation's August Share-the-plate gifts of \$1,366 (plus two direct gifts).

* **Sign the Solar Energy Petition.** This petition calls for a constitutional amendment on the 2016 ballot to allow the expansion, production and sale of solar energy in Florida. The Florida legislature has allowed utilities to monopolize solar development.

* **Sign the Voting Rights Petition.** This petition calls for a state constitutional amendment to reinstate voting rights to former felons who have completed their sentence, parole and probation. Forty-seven states provide for

automatic reinstatement of voting rights; Florida does not. Florida's current clemency process allows people to petition for the return of their right to vote, however there are 20,000 petitions backlogged in Tallahassee. Advocates argue that the current system discriminates against minority voting, e.g. blacks make up 16% of Florida's population but 32% of its prison population.

* **Backpack Volunteers.** Again this school year, on alternating Wednesdays, volunteers will pack weekend food for children who attend Wilkinson Elementary and two other schools in Sarasota. New and regular volunteers, look for Don or Sara at the Backpack table. Signup has started. The first packing is September 23rd at 10 a.m. at the church.

* **Cattle Grazing in Myakka?** There is an effort in Tallahassee to allow cattle grazing in part of Myakka State Park. Cattle production is a worldwide environmental and climate issue. Pick up a flyer at the Social Justice table for more information about the issue and local action that you can take. Or go to the church website, look under the Social Justice tab: Myakka Threatened.

* **Your Recipe Is Waiting.** Each Sunday the Sustainable Eating Task Force offers Meatless Monday recipes in the courtyard, including at the Social Justice table. These recipes are coming soon to the church website. Enjoy!

* **Bethesda House staff thank us** for our Sunday food donations of dry cereal, cans of veggies and fruit, tuna, peanut butter, toilet paper, and pet food. Look for the collection bin on the Sanctuary walkway.

At our courtyard table today: Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate, (olive oil on order); collection box for school points labels from food boxes; collection jug for non-recyclable plastic caps to benefit a local school.

COMING NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

* **9:00 am: Sunday Services begin at Lakewood Ranch!**

* **10:30 am: "What Is Religion?" sermon by Roger Fritts**

Roger returns to our pulpit with a message about what religion means to a liberal faith community.

* **10:30 am Music:** Brad Williams, Trombone; Don Bryn, Piano; Charlie Allman, organ.

* **9:30 Forum: "The Immigration Dilemma"**

Imagine you awake to tanks going down your street and men going house to house to do violence. The government is not functioning, nor the banks. You grab your family and run for your lives until you get to Canada. What are you hoping the people of Canada will do for you as an immigrant? We will discuss why are there so many immigrants and how receiving countries are handling it. Presenter: DeeAnna Dowdle.