



# **WEEKLY CONTACT**

September 27, 2015

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

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## **MINISTER'S MESSAGE BY ROGER FRITTS**

In 19th century Unitarian Churches, only clergy led worship. To get a break from the weekly responsibility of preparing and delivering a sermon, ministers invented the "pulpit exchange." Ministers traded churches for a day and each would give one of their best, already-prepared sermons to a nearby congregation. In my imagination, early Sunday morning ministers would greet each other as they passed on horseback, traveling to the neighboring church.

In the 21st century I am happy to continue this practice. Sunday I am exchanging pulpits with the Rev. Khleber Van Zandt V, the first ever settled minister serving the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice. He is starting his second year in Venice. Previously, he served for ten years as minister to the First Unitarian Church of Alton, Illinois, a lovely church on the Mississippi River. As a fan of Johnny Cash's music, I find Khleber's sermon title very interesting - "Johnny Cash and the Great American Contradiction."

I am looking forward to visiting the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice, to meet their members and learn about their experience as Unitarian Universalists in Florida. As our cars pass on interstate 75, Khleber and I will wave at each other, and remember that we are part of a long and hallowed tradition.

## **SUNDAY EVENTS, SEPTEMBER 27, 2015**

### **UUCS, 3975 Fruitville Rd**

**\* 10:30 a.m. "Cash and Contradiction," sermon by Rev. Khleber M. Van Zandt,** in a pulpit exchange with the Venice congregation

Few figures in recent history are more representative of American identity than the late music icon, Johnny Cash. In *Johnny Cash and the Great American Contradiction*, author Rodney Clapp calls for a truce in our culture wars. We'll explore some of the contradictions inherent in the intersections between democracy and religion, using Cash as the spokesperson for us regular folks.

Rev. Khleber M. Van Zandt V grew up in Fort Worth and owned a construction company in Saint Louis for many years before entering the ministry. He and his beloved, Linda, have a blended family of seven grown kids and four grandsons. Khleber served the congregation in Alton, Illinois, and is now the first settled minister of the UU Congregation in Venice, Florida.

\* **10:30 a.m. Music: Bonnie Caplan, harp; Don Bryn, piano.**

\* **9:30 Forum: "The Local Food Shift: Building Wealth and Health from the Ground Up"**

A renaissance of local food and farming is already well underway here in Southwest Florida, with more farms and farmers' markets, farm-to-table restaurants, and home, school, and community gardens popping up each and every year. Come learn why a local food shift is essential for our collective future, discover key resources that will make it easier for you to eat and grow locally, and find out how to get involved with the local food movement right here in your own backyard. Moderator: DeeAnna Dowdle; Presenter: Don Hall, founder and Executive Director of Transition Sarasota (transitionsrq.org), a local nonprofit dedicated to rebuilding local community resilience and self-reliance, starting with food.

**LAKEWOOD RANCH, The River Club, 6600 River Club Blvd, Bradenton, 34202**

\* **9:00 a.m. "A Celebration of the Autumn Equinox," by Pastor Katie Culbert**

The Autumn Equinox marks the time of the season when our days are equally dark and light. It is often challenging to bring balance and harmony into our lives when things are tipped towards darkness: family and marital stress, illness, economic struggles, social injustice, etc. but without the darkness we would not know light. This concept is also recognized in the ancient religion of Taoism, symbolized by the yin yang. On September 27th let us acknowledge the lightness and the darkness that shape our lives, gathering in community to support one another in our pursuit of balance.

\* **9:00 a.m. Music: Ed Kinder, keyboard; Claudia Holmes, Recorder**

\* **We have volunteers on hand to make sure your children are supervised and happy while you enjoy the service.**

\* Join us in the CaddyShak after the service for brunch and fellowship.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

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

\* Loving care for infants and toddlers is available.

\* Classes for older children and Youth Group

## **OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS**

\* **The Book Table will be open this Sunday, the 27th**, instead of the usual first Sunday. Come by and see some of our new selections!

Valerie Kerwin

## \* **Bed and Breakfast Program Volunteer Request**

One of the better kept secrets at our church is the Bed and Breakfast program. It is an ongoing fundraiser and an income line item in our budget. Currently we have seven members who host guests in their homes in the manner of the original bed and breakfast concept. We advertise in *UU World* and also in the *UU're Home* internet site, and we receive requests from around the country.

As coordinator, I ask prospective guests about allergies to pets or foods, sleeping arrangements, what they drink in the morning, and any other special needs so hosts can decide if they would be able to accommodate the guest. Guests are very interesting to talk with, and they very much appreciate being able to stay with someone for only \$70 per night/room, which is always donated to the church. We need additional hosts, and for those interested in volunteering or learning more, please contact me at 922-0883, or at [tmovers1@verizon.net](mailto:tmovers1@verizon.net). I will be near the table with the blue table cloth immediately after the Sunday service.

Ron Brown, Bed and Breakfast Coordinator and Host

## **UU'S OF LAKEWOOD RANCH LAUNCHED**

**Our new UU community is up and running!** Our first services have been engaging, uplifting and filled with energy. This Sunday evening at 6 pm we'll meet at the Craig's home (9215 66th Ave. Drive East, Bradenton, 34202) to review what has worked and what we could do better. If you've ever thought you'd like to have a say in helping a new church find its footing, now's your chance. Break out your GPS (to find your way) and Join Us! Contact John Yoder for additional information, [iamjohnyoder@gmail.com](mailto:iamjohnyoder@gmail.com) or 554-4783.

## **ADULT PROGRAMS**

\* **Visit some of the best restaurants in town** with your UU friends monthly on first Friday of each month with the **UU Vegetarians Group**. On Friday, **October 2nd** at 1 pm we will meet at InFuzions Thai Restaurant on SE corner of University and Lockwood Ridge. You don't need to be a vegetarian, just eat like one at lunch. For reservations, contact Jean Wieloch, [jeanw972@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanw972@yahoo.com), 929-3845.

\* **UU Singles will enjoy a buffet at Fred's Market Restaurant** on the SW corner of Bee Ridge and Cattlemen at noon on Sunday, **September 27th** (Monthly on 4th Sundays). Just show up, no reservation required. New members will receive a paper copy of the activity sign-up sheets so you will know who to call when you want to go to a movie, walk or restaurant with a friend of similar interests. Questions? Email [DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com](mailto:DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com) or call 350-3571. Carpooling from church recommended.

\* **Meatless Mondays just got easier.** Please pick up a new recipe every week and explore new entrees. Why, it's healthy, it's fun to try new things, and the congregation voted food changes as the #1 idea for thoughtful improvement for the sustainability of our planet. You are invited to join other members for cooking with friends to learn more. Questions, call [DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com](mailto:DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com), 350-3571.

\* **Qigong Classes Resume the week of October 18.**

**Our Thursday series of 8 classes, 10 - 11 am, Oct 22 - Dec 17, \$40 for the series.**

**Monday drop-in classes, 1:30 - 2:30 pm, Oct 19 - Nov 9, \$5 per class.**

Qigong is a Chinese self-care practice that combines breath, movement, meditation, and self-applied massage to maintain health, reduce stress, and bring harmony to the mind, body, and spirit. These powerful mind-body practices are simple and relaxing and accessible to all at any level of fitness and physical ability - they can be done standing or sitting with equal benefit. No prior experience required.

Curious? You're invited to come to a Monday class as a free introduction, to see if you would like to register for the Thursday series.

Questions? Call Nancy Saum, 703-297-1749 or email [nancy.saum@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.saum@gmail.com).

\* **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 will be considered. Co-chair, [DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com](mailto:DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com) 350-3571

\* **Local Food Co-Op?**

The church's Sustainable Food Task Force is gauging interest in a UU Food Co-Op featuring local farm fresh vegetables. If you are interested in more information, sign up at the bulletin board, or contact DeeAnna at 359-3571 or [DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com](mailto:DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com).

For information about Sarasota's Eat Local Week, now through October 30, visit [www.transitionsrq.org](http://www.transitionsrq.org).

\* **Spiritual Book Group** has chosen two books to enjoy for this month: *The Four Agreements* and *The Mastery of Love*, both written by Don Miguel Ruiz. The group will meet on **Monday, October 5**, 10 a.m. to noon. 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](mailto:d2mryan@verizon.net) or 365-4027.

## CARING

\* **Does the Minister have your Memorial Form on file?** Has your emergency contact information changed since you filled out the form? Update and submit your form for a memorial service and have peace of mind knowing you've made choices easier for your loved ones. The form can be found online at [www.uusarasota.org](http://www.uusarasota.org) or in the church office.

\* **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](mailto: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

\* **Our website, [www.uusarasota.org](http://www.uusarasota.org), has been updated** with a new church Directory dated early September. Scroll to Members Corner, click and add the password. Call the office if you don't have it. You can check out birthdays, the get together dinners, Caring and other helpful topics.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

\* **Together let's eat less meat.** Our Second Sunday potluck on **October 11** is sponsored by the Sustainable Eating Task Force. This event will feature vegetarian and vegan entrees. We encourage potluck participants to contribute to the potluck in keeping with our theme. For questions, contact Loni Zeichner at [gzeichner@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:gzeichner@tampabay.rr.com) or by phone at 351-7785. Stuck for ideas? Just ask and Loni will send recipe samples for you to consider. All are welcome whether or not your contribution is meatless.

\* **Thanksgiving Potluck:** Each year we hold a potluck on Thanksgiving Day. If you would like to help plan this year's event, please come to the planning session on **Sunday, October 11**, at 11:45, in the West Wing. Contact Suzie Brucklacher with questions.

\* **Roger Fritts will be speaking on *Darwin as a Unitarian*** at the Humanists of Sarasota Bay meeting at Roskamp Center, 1226 N. Tamiami Trail on **Monday, October 5**. The program begins at 7 p.m.

### \* **See Sarasota and More**

This year's series of monthly adventures will begin on **Monday, October 12** with a visit to the Ringling Museum of Art to view their permanent and current exhibits as well as the gardens and grounds. We will gather at the church at 11:00 and leave at 11:15 in carpools to drive to Hotel Indigo for lunch. This has become a favorite lunch spot because they give us a separate room, the food is delicious and the service is excellent. After lunch we will go to the Ringling and view the art works and gardens on our own. We will be back at church by 3:30. There is no charge for the Ringling Museum on Monday. We will have options for our lunch menu with a set price of \$20.00 which includes the entree, dessert, beverage, tax, and tip. Please be prepared to pay the \$20.00 when you sign up, by cash or check made out to Kathy Cook.

Sign-up sheets will be available at a table in the courtyard before and after the service this Sunday, September 27 and next Sunday, October 4. These outings are a great way to meet people in the church, enjoy a meal together, and have fun and educational experiences.

**Save the Date:** Our next adventure will be **Tuesday, November 10** - a day trip to St. Petersburg and the Dali Museum to see the current M. C. Escher exhibit and have lunch at the Hangar Restaurant.

**\* 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 acquaint 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](http://www.uusarasota.org)

Deadline for registering is **September 27**.

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

**\* The First Presbyterian Church has extended an invitation** to hear John Buchanan, the editor of the *Christian Century*, speak about interfaith relationships on Saturday morning, **October 24 at 9:30 am**, in their fellowship hall at 2050 Oak Street at 9:30 am. There is no charge.

**\* Also note, First Presbyterian will be hosting the annual community interfaith Thanksgiving service**, which will be held in their sanctuary on Sunday evening, **November 22 at 7:00 pm**. Their goal each year just before Thanksgiving is to:

- Honor one another
- Give thanks for our blessings
- And lift up gratitude and common purpose on behalf of our community

**\* SAVE THE DATE: Friday evening, NOVEMBER 6, 5 - 7 PM - dinner details to follow!**

**\* Broadway hits coming to Sanctuary on November 8**

A new concert, filled with hits from your favorite Broadway shows, is coming to our church on November 8 at 3 pm. The concert is called "Give My Regards to Broadway" and is part of the church's long-running Sanctuary Concerts series. It will feature 3 outstanding performers from the Sarasota musical community: Amy Jo Connours and Jason Stearns will do the vocals, accompanied by Lee Dougherty Ross on the piano. Songs will include "Old Man River," "The Impossible Dream," "People Will Say We're In Love," and many more from shows such as Showboat, Oklahoma, Kiss Me Kate, and Phantom of the Opera.

Check our website [www.beachsun.org/concerts/](http://www.beachsun.org/concerts/) for details. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased in advance by going to [www.beachsun.org/concerts/sanctuary-concert-tickets/](http://www.beachsun.org/concerts/sanctuary-concert-tickets/)

**\* The Flea Market Needs Your Stuff and We Need You**

Mark your calendar, the Flea Market takes place **Saturday, November 14**. To be the success we aim for, we'll need lots of your gently used household items (no clothes please), sporting gear, jewelry, books, baked goods and small furniture. Donated items may be brought to the church beginning **Wednesday, November 11**. That's where the fun starts. We need you to join in as a volunteer to sort, price and stage all the donated items. It's easy, fun and a great way to meet new people. Sign-up begins **Sunday, October 18**.

**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@uuserarasota.org](mailto:justice@uuserarasota.org) or stop by the Social Justice table on Sunday.**

**\* Help Refugees in Europe Now!** The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is asking for immediate help in two ways: (1) sign the online petition asking Secretary of State Kerry to raise the number of refugees allowed into the U.S. to 200,000, (2) help the UUSC raise \$250,000 by the end of September. Funds will provide immediate, direct assistance to refugees. [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)

**\* Wish You Could Sign Our Petitions More Than Once?** You have already signed one or both petitions supporting state constitutional amendments to expand voter rights and solar development. Now you can invite your group, club or family to do the same. Pick up 5 or 10 blank petitions at the Social Justice table. Return them signed, and we'll submit them for you. Thanks for your advocacy for restorative justice and for the climate.

**\* Are You Volunteer No. 76?** Are you ready to join 75 members and friends who help pack food during the school year for children at Wilkinson Elementary and two other schools? Talk to Don or Sara at the Backpack table or [sdslate@comcast.net](mailto:sdslate@comcast.net).

**\* Brady Campaign Bayfront Witness** for gun background checks resumes on Thursdays from 4-5 p.m. at the Kissing Statue. Signs provided. Wear white. Friends and leashed pets are welcome. For more information, contact Nancy or Dave Evans at [nadaevans@comcast.net](mailto:nadaevans@comcast.net).

**\* Buying Chocolate for Halloween?** Look for one of these three labels: Fair Trade USA, Rainforest Alliance Certified or SPP. To learn about Fair Trade labeling, go to the church website, click on Social Justice, Fair Trade Symbols. Thank you, Ted Weihe.

**\* Sunday Food Favorites.** Not sure what to bring from your cupboard on Sundays? Soup, spaghetti, sauce, canned vegetables and toilet paper are always needed at Bethesda House. Look for the collection bin on the Sanctuary walkway.

**At our courtyard table today:** Organic, Fair Trade coffees, teas, chocolate bars, cocoa, olive oil; collection box for school points labels from food boxes; collection jug for non-recyclable plastic caps to benefit a local school

## **COMING NEXT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4**

### **\* 10:30 a.m. "What Makes Us Different from Other Religions?" sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

A few years ago researchers conducted a nationwide study on the subject of church affiliation. The results showed that more than 626 thousand adults in this country call themselves Unitarian Universalists. Yet given that the population of this country is more than 320 million, 626 thousand is but a drop in the bucket. We are dwarfed by the Methodists, who claim more than 7 million members, and by the Southern Baptists who claim more than 15 million members. We are a mere blip on the radar screen of the Roman Catholics who claim 69 million people as members in the United States.

Because of our size, I often find myself in the situation of trying to explain my religion to people who have never heard of Unitarians or Universalists. I find myself in a conversation where someone asks me what I do for a living. I explain that I am a Unitarian Universalist minister. The people I am talking with often respond by saying that they know nothing at all about Unitarian Universalism. They ask me to explain my religion to them, in a few words. This sermon is my answer.

### **\* 10:30 a.m. Music: Choir; Don Bryn, piano**

### **\* 9:30 Forum: "School Attendance Issues: A Challenge to Educational Improvement."**

Dr. Laura Kingsley, Executive Director of Elementary Education for Sarasota County Schools, will discuss the challenge of getting students to show up for school on a regular basis. Is it a student problem, a parent problem, a school problem or a societal problem? What can be done to ensure students are present to receive the benefits of education? Moderator: John Stinespring; Presenter: Dr. Laura Kingsley.