



November 8, 2015

WEEKLY CONTACT

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

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Weekly Contact

The print edition of the Weekly Contact will soon be phased out, in keeping with our Green Sanctuary Program. Please make sure the office knows your preferred address for the Friday email. Beginning December 1, a limited number of copies will be available at the Welcome Table for visitors.

MINISTER'S MESSAGE BY ROGER FRITTS

Sunday we will have a special collection to support our partner church scholarship fund. American Unitarians have been concerned that, after the fall of communism in December 1989, the Unitarian Churches in Transylvania, established in 1568, will disappear, as young people move from the agricultural villages to the cities and stop attending church. To keep young people involved, many American Unitarian Universalist Churches have contributed to scholarship funds for young Unitarians attending university. The hope is that in the future these young people will look back with gratitude to the church that helped them fund their education, and be commitment Unitarians.

Our partnership is not primarily about money, but about developing friendships between the churches. We learn about their culture and about Christian Unitarianism. They learn about our culture and about our humanist Unitarian Universalism. However, for the students we help financially, our contributions make an enormous difference in their lives.

SUNDAY EVENTS, NOVEMBER 8

Sermon at both Sarasota (10:30 a.m.) and Lakewood Ranch (9:00 a.m.)

"Distilling the Spirit in Transylvania," by Rev. Roger Fritts

In the sixteenth century in Transylvania, Frances David, unable to find a biblical basis for the doctrine of the Trinity, proclaimed that Jesus was a human being and not God. He established Unitarian congregations for the first time in history. Today in present-day Romania these churches continue to preach the Unitarian message of the humanity of Jesus. In August, members of the Unitarian Universalist Church in Sarasota made a pilgrimage to Transylvania to discover the roots of their faith and to experience the culture of the people, which included a late night visit to a community still used to create Palinka, a fruit-flavored Hungarian hard liquor.

UUCS, 3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota 34232

* **10:30 a.m. Music:** Ann Alton, Cello; Don Bryn, Piano

* **10:30 a.m. Religious Education Classes** We need you! Please don't miss this Sunday's special Religious Education Chapel. We will all join together in the West Wing to plan our first social justice activity of the 2015-2016 school year. Our theme for this year will be "Helping Hands & Loving Hearts."

* **9:30 a.m. Forum: "The American Death Spiral, Over 50, Lost His Job: One Man's Story"** What would have happened to the banks in 2008 had our government not bailed them out? Calamity! There was no bail-out for small business owners. Come hear the story about one man's slide to the bottom in the U.S. and then hear how it compared to the job he got and lost in Germany. How do the two country's safety nets for citizens compare? Moderator, John Stinespring; Presenter, DeeAnna Dowdle.

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

* **9:00 a.m. Music:** Joan Lonergan, keyboard; Claudia Holmes, Recorder

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

* **10:00 a.m. Join us after the service for brunch and fellowship.**

OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS

* **COLLECTION PLATE THIS SUNDAY:** All the monies collected this Sunday, except for pledges of course, will go toward the **Scholarship Fund for our Partner Church**. We are supporting two students in Transylvania this year and hope to raise enough money to pay most of their expenses. Please be generous with your cash donations and checks made out to UUCS. Thank you.

* **Sunday, November 8, will be the Second Sunday potluck.** Bring a dish for eight people to share. Vegetarian and vegan dishes are encouraged. All are welcome. If you are a first-time visitor, please join us; you do not have to bring a dish.

* **Big musical coming to the church on November 8**

Some of the greatest songs ever to come out of America's love affair with Broadway musicals will be presented in the church Sanctuary on **November 8 at 3:00 p.m.** with the concert ***GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY***, featuring two of Sarasota's best vocalists. Check the home page of the church's website for details or go to beachsun.org/concerts/. Tickets are \$15 and are available in advance online at beachsun.org/concerts/tickets/ or at the door before the concert.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There was a book which was popular a few years ago, *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten*. Well, what I remember from kindergarten is that if you eat the crayons you have to stand in the corner. Luckily for me, as a Unitarian Universalist, I know you don't learn everything in kindergarten. We strongly believe learning is a lifelong process.

In our Religious Education (RE) program, we recognize that families are the principal guides for their children. Our role in RE is to act as a resource in this journey. We provide an environment which fosters a sense of ethics, a motivation to social action and a personal spirituality.

As we say in our PreK-1st grade class, "We are Unitarian Universalists with open minds, loving hearts and helping hands."

Thank you for your support of our RE program. I look forward to working with all of you as we help guide our next generation of Unitarian Universalists.

Susan Cook-Hallock
Director of Religious Education

FLEA MARKET NOVEMBER 14

* **This is the Week!** Come to the Wine & Cheese pre-sale Friday, November 13 at 4 pm and the Sale Saturday the 14th beginning at 8:00 am. Invite a friend, eat, drink and shop! All proceeds support our church's mission.

CARING

* **A Tribute from Helene Reeder to honor Tom and Kathy Cook for all their help with her computer and their patience with her.**

* **The Hearing Loss Group of America is collecting unwanted hearing aids. They recycle them for deaf children.** There will be a collection box on the welcome table. They are very grateful.

* **The Sarasota chapter of Compassion and Choices will present a free talk on the right-to-die.** It will be held on **Tuesday, November 10**, at 7 pm, in the auditorium at **Sarasota Memorial Hospital**.

* **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 or in the church office.

* **The Caring Committee** offers short term help with rides, meals and companionship. If you are ill or 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

* **Remember to sign up for your photo directory picture.** Sign up at our uusarasota.org website on the left hand side of the Home Page. Picture taking begins **November 16**. You will receive one free 8 x 10 picture and a Directory. The purchase of more pictures will be available. Members and Friends who have made an identifiable contribution are welcome. If you do not have website access, please call June Brasgalla at 379-6071.

* **If your committee cancels a meeting, please inform the office.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

* **Interweave Film:** "Gen Silent" will be shown at UUCS on **Wednesday, November 18** at 7:00 PM in the Jefferson Room. Filmed in Boston over a one-year period, this documentary follows six LGBT seniors as they decide whether to stay open about their sexuality or return to the closet so they can survive in long-term care facilities. Regardless of your age, sexuality, or degree of being "out," this film will resonate with you. After all, each of us loves someone who is, or has, or will, make this decision. A day-time showing at the Venice UU will be announced at a later date.

* **Save the Date: On Sunday, November 22** at 7:00 p.m. there will be an Interfaith Thanksgiving Service held at the First Presbyterian Church on 2050 Oak Street in Sarasota. Our church choir will be joining the chorales of other churches of our community for a gathering "to celebrate our unity as people of faith." Connect with us as we promote our third UU principle: "acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations."

* **Church Family Thanksgiving**

Come to church for a traditional or "veg" Thanksgiving dinner on **Thanksgiving Day**. Turkey, stuffing and gravy provided. Veg entrees too. Bring a family favorite side dish or dessert to share. Appetizers, wine and beverages start at 1 p.m., dinner at 2 p.m.

Paid reservations required by Nov. 20th: \$10 per person, \$8 age 12-under. Look for the Thanksgiving table on Sundays in the courtyard.

Volunteers are invited to help set up on Wednesday afternoon or serve as Table Escorts during dinner on Thursday. Contact Suzie Brucklacher at susan.tbliss@gmail.com.

* **What are YOU doing between Christmas and New Year? Attend a UU Winter Gathering at 4-H Camp Cloverleaf at Lake Placid, Florida.** Mindy Simmons is the Artist-in-Residence and our former intern Katie Culbert is the Chaplain-in-Residence. For more information go to www.swimuu.org.

* **John Shelby Spong to speak in our Sanctuary, February 12 & 13, 2016.** The Rt. Rev. John Shelby Spong, a global and pioneering leader of progressive Christianity and bestselling author, will speak in our Sanctuary on Friday and Saturday, February 12 and 13. He is known for his trenchant criticisms of Biblical literalism and his radical rejection of much traditional Christian dogma. For details, fee, and registration information, see www.uusarasota.org.

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.

* **Next Social Justice (SJ) Committee Meeting. Tuesday, November 10 at noon in the Lexow Wing.** New members, friends, visitors welcome. Join the SJ mailing list at justice@uusarasota.org.

* **Attend the Candlelight Vigil On Gun Violence Thursday, November 12** at 5-7 p.m. in front of the Federal Building in Sarasota. For more information, contact Nancy or Dave Evans at nadaevans@comcast.net.

* **UU Service Committee's 75th Year.** Do you know UUSC's first project launched in 1940? We helped Jews and other Europeans escape Nazi persecution. In two weeks the Social Justice Committee will kick off the UU Service Committee's annual Membership campaign - Guest At Your Table - to support international relief and advocacy. (There will be no Share-the-Plate project in November.) Membership envelopes will be included in the order of service or you can register online.

* **Used Bicycles for Turning Points.** El Parent will pick up your used bicycle and deliver it to Turning Points, the one-stop homelessness prevention center in Manatee County. Contact him at 813-507-8735 or elparentjekp@gmail.com.

* **Sign the Solar Energy and Voting Rights Petitions.** These petitions for state constitutional amendments - to expand solar energy development and to restore voting rights to former felons - are available at the Social Justice table. If enough Florida registered voters sign these petitions, they will appear on the November 2016 ballot.

* **Sunday Food Donations.** Not sure what to donate 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. Thank you!

* **Backpack Volunteers.** Help pack food bags for low income students in Sarasota. For more information about our congregation's largest hunger project or to schedule your time, look for Don or Sara on Sunday or email dsslate@comcast.net.

* **Chocolate Prices Going up.** Higher cocoa prices worldwide will impact our next order of Organic, Fair Trade chocolate bars. Remaining inventory is still \$4 per bar at the Social Justice table.

Also 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, NOVEMBER 15

Sermon at both Sarasota (10:30 a.m.) and Lakewood Ranch (9:00 a.m.)

"What Are Unitarian Universalist Views on Spirituality?" by Rev. Roger Fritts

A few years ago, I asked twenty Unitarian Universalist ministers to write out their definition of spirituality. I created a composite definition, bringing together the common elements in the twenty definitions of spirituality. "Unitarian Universalist spirituality is going into the depth of the inner core of our being, the place within us beyond words, the place that is our center. There we find connection to the whole of reality; we are in touch with ourselves, with others, with nature, and with God. We realize we are part of a wondrous whole." What does this mean in everyday practice? The sermon will attempt to answer that question.

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* **10:30 a.m. Music:** Choir; Don Bryn, Piano

* **9:30 a.m. Forum: "Saving Our Wild Places: Pasturing Cows at Myakka."** The people of Florida and Sarasota have repeatedly voted to support acquiring and sustaining environmentally sensitive lands. These precious resources have not gone unnoticed by those who could profit from them! A battle is going on right now which wages private profit against public parks. Presenter, Darryl Saffer (who will show and discuss his video, "Not Long Ago"); Moderator, DeeAnna Dowdle.

Darryl Saffer, a musician, filmmaker and educator, produces his own TV series called "The Florida Field Journal," found on Youtube and shown locally on the Education Channel at Comcast Ch. 20 and Verizon Ch. 33. He films and produces the "The Wild Orchid Man" film series (including composing the music) with internationally renowned orchid expert Stig Dalstrom. His passion for the environment and its protection has been radically challenged by Governor Scott's administration's disregard for voter intent regarding the use of Amendment 1 funds, state sanctioned bear hunts, and plans to graze cattle on Myakka State Park lands.