



August 30, 2015

WEEKLY CONTACT

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

A memorial service for Joan Waite will be held in the Sanctuary on Saturday, August 29, at 3 p.m. Rev. Dee Graham will officiate.

SUNDAY EVENTS, AUGUST 30

*** 10:30 a.m. God? by Rev. Dorothy Okray**

Rushed to the hospital gasping for breath with pulmonary embolisms, blood clots, blocking the entries into her lungs, it was touch and go whether Rev. Dorothy Okray would survive. That night, she faced the ultimate question, what now?

Presently an avowed liberal, Rev. Okray's search for meaning grew from conservative Catholic roots. During a lifetime of quest and questioning, she drew her insights from a variety of faiths, religious leaders, scientists and acknowledged atheists. Okray shares that journey, searching for God, and the surprising state she experienced under that genuinely frightening situation.

The Rev. Dorothy Okray is a retired United Methodist minister and a Friend of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota. She served churches in New York and Michigan. Prior to this second career, Dorothy was an executive with retail and design firms, such as Bloomingdale's in New York City and Cannel and Chafin in Beverly Hills, California. Before she changed careers, Dorothy had her own firm, producing designs and building plans for retail chains throughout the United States.

*** 9:30 a.m. FORUM:**

“From the editorial pages of the New York Times”

Our presenters will discuss a major topic of political, cultural, or economic interest from this week's New York Times, and pose key questions related to that topic for Forum discussion.

Moderator/Presenters: Louise Stinespring and John Stinespring

*** Music – Darren Server, piano.**

10:30 a.m. Religious Education

It's a Party!

Do you like ice cream? How about freeze dancing, face painting or board games? This coming Sunday, August 30 is the **Welcome Back Celebration** for our children and teens. The fun will

begin at 10:30 a.m. in the West Wing. Feel free to bring your favorite game, if you wish, and join your friends for an hour of fun.

* **UUs of Lakewood Ranch**

Plan to come to '**Music on Main**', Lakewood Ranch's 1st Friday event held on Friday September 4, from 6 - 9pm in the LWR downtown plaza. Our UUs of Lakewood Ranch volunteer team will be staffing a booth to promote our new LWR Sunday service beginning September 13 (9am) at The River Club. We'll have balloons and a game for the kids, UU literature and friendly conversation passer-byes. Stop in and say hello! Check us out on Facebook and our UUUCS website (www.uusarasota.org). John Yoder

ADULT PROGRAMS

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 [941-350-3571](tel:941-350-3571)

* **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 Brasgalla** 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.

***Cinema Conversations** - Liberals and Conservatives alike are urged to attend the next meeting, especially since we will be discussing "Best of Enemies". We're hoping sparks will fly on Wednesday, September 2 at 7 p.m. in the Lexow Wing. After viewing this Buckley/Vidal film your own, join us for a great chat! **Angela Carrubba**

***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 You 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**

* **Our 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](tel:703-297-1749). Or email nancy.saum@gmail.com with your contact information to receive details of the ride.

* **Special Qigong Workshop**, Monday, August 31, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., Jefferson Room, for both NEW and ongoing folks.

The next Qigong series will begin in mid-October. Meanwhile, come to this workshop to remain connected with your practice and also to learn some new "Animal Frolics" forms. If you are new to Qigong this would also be a great way to start. Qigong is a very simple and accessible practice that can be done sitting or standing. It is a form of moving meditation that is relaxing and at the same time improves balance, flexibility, and endurance. Cost is \$10. For more information call **Nancy Saum**, [703-297-1749](tel:703-297-1749) or email nancy.saum@gmail.com.

* "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!



* An orchard of our own!

Seven loquat trees grace the edge of the front of the church parking lot. Planted a couple of years ago by the UUCS gardening crew, they are maturing nicely and will bear some luscious fruit a few months from now. Who knows - maybe we will have enough fruit to be able to sell some at our church flea-market in November!

* **The Arts Council is pleased to announce that a new exhibit, "New Works – Brilliant Acrylics by Jackie Peters Cully"**, is coming to the Lexow Wing Gallery next week! Have a last look this Sunday at "Six Squared", the current exhibit of colorful 6 by 6 inch paintings by a group of local artists, and mark your calendar for the opening reception for Jackie Peters Cully 11:30 a.m., **Sunday, September 6**.

CARING

* **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 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@uucarasota.org or stop by the Social Justice table on Sunday.

* **I Have A Dream.** Friday, August 28 was the anniversary of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s [famous speech](#). Despite much progress, *Black Lives Matter* challenges us to recognize that we are not finished with race work in our city and state. For starters, voting rights matter!

* **Sign the Voting Rights Petition.** This petition calls for a 2016 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.

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

* **Cattle Grazing Moving into 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. For more information about the issue and local action that you can take, pick up a flyer at the social justice table. Or go to the church website, look under the Social Justice tab: [Myakka Threatened](#).

* **Your Recipe Is Waiting.** The Sustainable Eating Task Force is now offering Meatless Monday recipes each week at the social justice table. Enjoy!

* **Bethesda House Residents** appreciate our regular food donations, especially dry cereal, cans of veggies and fruit, tuna, peanut butter, toilet paper, and pet food. Look for the collection box Sunday on the Sanctuary walkway.

* **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.

At our courtyard table today: Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate, cocoa, (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 6**

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.