



WEEKLY CONTACT

September 20, 2015

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE BY ROGER FRITTS

I am reading that some Unitarian Hungarians feel that the September news coverage has been unfair to Hungarians. From their point of view, 160,000 Muslim refugees have invaded Hungary, a country of less than ten million. Sometimes more than 3,000 people a day were arriving. One Hungarian posted on Facebook, "I am getting sick of the fact that Hungary is dragged through mud every day in the News coverage and slagged off for not helping the refugees! In truth there are hundreds of volunteers and lots of charities who are pushing themselves very hard to help the refugees yet they aren't getting any recognition for it! . . . What I wish for is that the big influential countries like U.S. and Russia etc. get together and make peace in Syria. I feel sorry for anyone who needs to leave their home and family behind because their home can be hit by a bomb any day. That is awful!"

While I was in Europe in August, both a Hungarian man and a few days later an Irish woman told me that the cause of the refugee problem in Europe was the United States' 2003 invasion of Iraq. No one can say what would have happened in Syria, if we had not invaded Iraq. Nevertheless, I think it is appropriate that The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and the Unitarian Universalist Association announced the launch of a refugee crisis fund with the goal of raising \$250,000. Their appeal also calls on the U.S. Government to raise the number of Syrian refugees it accepts from just 100 last year to 200,000. Our small religious association cannot solve this problem, but we can do our part.

SUNDAY EVENTS, SEPTEMBER 20, 2015

UUCS, 3975 Fruitville Rd

***10:30 a.m. "Here Comes the Pope!" sermon by Roger Fritts**

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

*** 9:30 a.m. Forum: "Your Chance to Sound Off on the News!"** Do you ever feel frustrated, angry, or happy about something in the news? We'll summarize a few subjects from the past week, raise some issues, and ask you to share your thoughts. Sharing is a good thing! Moderator: John Stinespring; Presenter: Ava Whaley

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

*** 9:00 a.m. "Here Comes the Pope!" sermon by Roger Fritts**

* **9:00 a.m. Music: Claudia Holmes, Recorder**

* Service is followed by great, inexpensive breakfast.

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

* **Share the Plate with BackPack**

With our gifts today, we will again provide weekend food for 60 low-income children attending Wilkinson Elementary in Sarasota. Members and friends of our church are signing up to pack and deliver food for students who depend on the school lunch program during the week. Their families are persevering despite underemployment, unemployment and homelessness. Thanks to our gifts, our volunteers and our partnership with All Faiths Food Bank, these children will get nutritious meals on weekends. Please give generously.

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 will be considered. Co-chair, DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com 350-3571

* **Should We Get Fresh at Church?**

Would you like to be able to order healthy, farm fresh vegetables and pick them up after church on Sunday morning? The Sustainable Food Task Force is considering a UU Food Co-Op if a minimum of 24 people want to participate. Indicate your interest in getting more information by signing up at the bulletin board. Questions? Contact DeeAnna at 350-3571 or DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com.

* **Hey you, the computer aficionado**, we need you to teach our members the basics so they can enjoy their computer more. Basic email, web browsing and how to file, store and back up. It's easy to arrange a class for our upcoming "Fall Adult Programs Session," just contact DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com or 350-3571.

* **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 or 365-4027.

CARING

* **The Jefferson Center (JC)** 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

* **"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.

* **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.

* **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

* **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 full of 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/) for details. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased in advance by going to www.beachsun.org/concerts/sanctuary-concert-tickets/

* **The Flea Market Needs Your Stuff!** The Flea Market is just around the corner on **Saturday, November 14**. Please save your best gently used items during your Fall housekeeping for the big sale. We'll receive them directly at the church beginning **Wednesday, November 11**. If you're moving or doing major downsizing, please call Dee Widder, 377-9028, for information on storage options.

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.

* **How to Help Refugees in Europe:** The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has two ways we can help: (1) sign the online petition asking Secretary of State Kerry to raise the number of refugees allowed into the U.S., (2) support the UUSC's immediate request for funds to provide direct assistance.

* **Backpack Volunteers:** This school year, usually on first and third 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 or use email.

* **Brady Campaign Bayfront Witness** for gun control resumes Thursday, September 24 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.

* **Fair Trade Products Back in Stock:** Olive oil and cocoa mix are now in stock on the Social Justice table, along with a great variety of chocolate bars, coffee and boxed teas. Suzie Brucklacher reports that a teaspoon of the cocoa mix will turn your coffee into cafe mocha.

* **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.

* **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. Florida registered voters may sign to put these issues on the November 2016 ballot.

* **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 and local action that you can take. Or go to the church website, Social Justice tab: Myakka Threatened.

* **Thank you for your Sunday food donation** of dry cereal, cans of veggies and fruit, tuna, peanut butter, toilet paper, or pet food for the Bethesda House, a support group for those living with AIDS sponsored by Catholic Charities. Look for the collection bin on the Sanctuary walkway.

At our courtyard table today: 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 27

* **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, for ten years, 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 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.