



# **WEEKLY CONTACT**

October 18, 2015

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

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

Looking to the future, some of you have suggested that we develop a long range plan for the church. In my experience as a minister in five churches:

1. A church cannot successfully plan more than about one year in advance, unless part of the plan includes a building program. Building programs require at least a three-year plan.
2. To avoid a plan ending up on a shelf gathering dust, planning committee members must be willing to serve on the church board in the year after the plan is presented and approved by the congregation. People who do not serve on the planning committee are not highly motivated to carry out someone else's plan.

I think a Sarasota Unitarian Universalist Church planning committee might be useful if the members of the committee are willing to serve on the board after the plan is established, and if the committee members are realistic about how far in the future they can plan (one year, unless they decide on a building program).

What are my thoughts on a building program? I am glad you asked! I think the church would benefit from having a small worship space, a chapel, seating about 60 people. We would use it for small memorial services, for small weddings, for children's worship, for the 9:00 Sunday service, and for meetings. A planning committee could evaluate the feasibility of this idea.

## **SATURDAY EVENTS, OCTOBER 17**

\* **Sarasota Pride:** Sarasota's Pride Festival is scheduled for **Saturday October 17**, from noon to 6 PM, at J.D. Hamel Park. The park is located at 2 Marina Plaza, Sarasota 34236, at the intersection of Main and Gulfstream in downtown Sarasota. Visit our UUCS Interweave table! Table hosts welcome for two-hour shifts - contact Ron Brown.

\* **Religious Education will be holding a "Third Sunday Social" on Saturday, October 17th, 5:30-8:00pm in the West Wing.**

Discover the world of minecraft UU style 2.0. Come visualize the church of your dreams. What does it include physically? What programs or services does it provide? Do you need a worship service and when? What do you want from your church? How would you build your dream church?

This is a potluck so bring food to share. Tea, water, juice provided. Ice-cream for dessert. BYOB. Childcare will be provided for the discussion period. No need to RSVP, just come!

## **SUNDAY EVENTS, OCTOBER 18**

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

#### **\* 10:30 a.m. "Spiritual Repurposing," sermon by Rev. Sara Zimmerman**

The idea of "flux" manifests itself in world religions and philosophies which inspire us in our spiritual growth. If the 19th century American Transcendentalists had not taken up the idea of "flux" from their translations of Goethe, who himself found it in ancient Hindu texts, and if our faith had not been influenced by the Indian poet R. Tagore, well, chances are Unitarianism would look quite different. Now, how do you talk about something as intangible as "flux"? With metaphors. The ancient philosopher Heraclitus used the metaphor of a river. Rev. Zimmerman honors his metaphor and adds metaphors that she finds to be inherent in the repurposing of three religious sites, sites that she visited two years ago: the Elephanta Caves near Mumbai, India; Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, Turkey; and Angkor Wat in Cambodia.

Rev. Dr. Sara E. Zimmerman retired in the fall of 2013 as the settled minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa. A year ago she completed a curriculum entitled "Spirituality, Science and Healing" that was funded in part by a grant from the UU Funding Program. Sara is a proud grandmother to Henry, 12, and Helen, 9, who live in Milwaukee.

#### **\* Music: Choir; Don Bryn, piano**

#### **\* 9:30 Forum: "The State of the Fourth Estate, What the Mainstream Media doesn't want you to know"**

Do you ever wonder about the decline in investigative journalism, why some stories or candidates get coverage and others don't, the effects of consolidation on the media and their fact-finding, possible government influence, the dumbing down of the stories presented and the rise of "infotainment" instead of hard news? Come join reporter Emily Le Coz for a discussion of these issues and more. Moderator, Ava Whaley; Presenter, Emily Le Coz.

**\* 10:30 a.m. Religious Education for Young People:** Loving care for infants and toddlers and classes for older children and Youth Group.

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

#### **\* 9:00 a.m. "The Future of Religion: What the Nones and the Nuns Have to Teach Us," sermon by Rev. Brock Leach**

It's no secret that mainline Protestant religion in America is in a tailspin. When asked about their religious affiliation, more and more Americans, particularly young adults, identify themselves as Nones. Yet a majority would

also say they are "spiritual but not religious," meaning they feel a need to be connected to a community and to what matters most in life. It's just that "church" as they know it isn't doing it for them; they're interested in entirely new forms of religious community. A growing number of religious entrepreneurs are rising to that challenge and many of them are young Unitarian Universalist ministers. They just might be on to something. Today we'll explore some of these ideas, and the possibilities they might create for our future.

Rev. Brock Leach is a Unitarian Universalist social justice minister and an affiliated community minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota. Brock is currently serving as an executive consultant to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) for its Multifaith Futures initiative. Prior to seminary, Brock spent 24 years with PepsiCo, having served as president and CEO of its Frito-Lay North America and Tropicana divisions. Brock's volunteer interests are focused on the health and wellbeing of children and their families. He has served on the board of the YMCA of the USA, is past chair of the board of Habitat for Humanity Sarasota; and is current chair of the board of Children First, Sarasota County's Head Start provider.

**Music: Claudia Holmes, Recorder; Ed Kinder, keyboard**

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

## **OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS**

**\* Applause and thanks to all who participated in our first "Let's Eat Less Meat Together" potluck** held this past Sunday. High participation from new members was noted. Vegetarians and omnivores alike demonstrated creativity, inventiveness, and imagination in their contributions. On January 11 the Steering Committee for Sustainable Eating will again sponsor this event. Expect surprises.

**\* Sign-Up for Our New Church Directory.** We are in the process of producing our new church directory. We have engaged Life Touch to photograph all members and friends who have made an identifiable contribution and who wish to be in the 2016 Directory. This is a great way for new and long-standing members and friends to have a visual reference guide to keep. Not only will you receive the guide for FREE, but you will also receive a FREE 8 x 10 portrait. You can even include your pets in the photo if you like! You can sign up on the church's website, but to make it even easier, a church volunteer will be in the Jefferson Room on **Sunday, October 18th**. Ron Brown will be armed with a laptop so you can select dates starting in November that suit your schedule. Please support this important church activity. If you wish assistance signing up online, please call June Bragalla at 379-6071.

**\* Please consider parking in the Cardinal Mooney High School lot** which provides extra parking space to us during the season, for your convenience. Drive into the main Cardinal Mooney entrance, then to the far southwest corner of their parking lot, closest to the church, and follow the signs to the church.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION THIRD SATURDAY SOCIALS FOR ALL AGES

### \* **November 21st, 5:30-?? CAMP OUT!**

UU Church, East Parking Lot

Come pitch a tent and stay overnight or just come for the campfire camaraderie on Saturday evening! This is a potluck, so bring food to share, and food to grill or roast over the fire pit. Tea, water, juice provided. Ice-cream for dessert. BYOB. No need to RSVP, just come! (Need camping gear? Call Catherine at 720-8437)

### \* **December 19th, 5:30-10:30pm HOLIDAY MOVIE, COCOA AND PARENT'S NIGHT OUT!**

UU Church, West Wing

Need a break from the holiday rush or extra time to yourself? Join us for a spaghetti dinner (gluten free and vegan options available), and stay for a holiday movie, holiday crafts, singing carols, and lots of hot cocoa or cider.

Parents are free to stay or have an evening for themselves. No need to RSVP, unless you need childcare. Call or text Catherine at 720-8437. No cost but donations are appreciated!

## FLEA MARKET NOVEMBER 14

\* **Beginning next Sunday, sign up in the Courtyard to help volunteer in the three days prior to our Big Sale, November 14.** Please also bring any jewelry and boutique items you intend to donate for the Market to our Sunday Courtyard Table. We'll clean, repair and price them before the busy sale week. Thanks in advance for making the Flea Market a success with your stuff, self and generous heart.

## ADULT PROGRAMS

### \* **Deep Listening, Deep Discussion**

**Chalice groups are forming** which allow members and friends of our church to discuss issues that are important to them and share their insights. Topics such as technology, family dynamics, what you want out of life and other subjects are just a sample of some of the concepts discussed. Chalice groups normally include 8-10 people and last for 1-2 hours. Typically, they occur twice per month. A trained facilitator coordinates the group and topics are chosen by group members. If this is something you might be interested in, please email Kim Roden at [kroden356@gmail.com](mailto:kroden356@gmail.com) or call 966-5097. A training session will be held for new members with group confidentiality and other agreed upon ground rules.

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

On **Tuesday, November 10**, See Sarasota and More will travel to the **Dali Museum in St. Petersburg** to have lunch at the Hangar Restaurant and see the current M.C. Escher exhibit at the Dali. We will gather at the church at 10:50 and leave in carpools at 11:00. We will have four entree choices at the Hangar and will have a private room for our group. We will be at the Museum around 1:00 and will have an audio guide available for the Escher exhibit, possibly time to see the permanent Dali collection and visit the gift shop. We should arrive back at church no later than 4:30. The cost of the trip for members of the Dali is \$21.00. For non-members it is \$40.00. That amount

covers the meal, including tax and tip, Museum admission, audio guide, and gas money for the carpool drivers. Sign-ups will take place and payment received at the "See Sarasota and More" table in the courtyard before and after the service this Sunday, October 18, and Sunday, October 25. We are limited to 40 participants for this trip. You may pay with cash or a check made out to Kathy Cook.

\* **Cooking with Friends** is so much fun and the plant-based recipes will warm your soul and tummy. So try it. Just sign up on the bulletin board or call DeeAnna and she will find a class that is convenient for you. Learning together is always better and sharing a kitchen with 4 or 6 people as you cook together for four consecutive weeks is marvelous. [DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com](mailto:DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com) 350-3571.

\* **Religious Literacy Dialog**

Are you interested in religious literacy issues? Then join us 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

\* **A memorial service for Pat Hochkins, wife of Paul, will be held in the Sanctuary on Saturday, October 24 at 2 PM.**

\* **A Tribute from Sharon and David Winkler in gratitude to Nancy Thomas and all those involved in the RE program.**

\* **A Tribute from Sharon and David Winkler in support of the Backpack program.**

\* **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](http://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](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

### \* **Interweave Welcomes You**

Interweave is an organization of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) that is affiliated with Interweave Continental, a national organization. Interweave is actively working to end oppression based on sexual orientation and gender identity, recognizing that we will not be free until all oppression is a thing of the past. The UUA supports the work of each congregation's chapter.

Our UUCS Interweave chapter welcomes people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We develop programs to enhance and support members of the UU churches and the LGBTQ community, as well as participate in activities and events of allied organizations. We strive to ensure that our church continues to earn the designation of Welcoming Congregation.

Watch the Contact for news of upcoming events and meetings!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

\* **The UUCS Board of Trustees will be holding its monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 20, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lexow Wing.** This meeting is open to our church community, and the agenda may be found on our website.

\* **Are you responsible for an upcoming church event that needs to be promoted to members or the general public?** Attend the next PR committee meeting, **Sunday, October 25**, 20 minutes after the service, in the West Wing. It's a great opportunity to inform the PR committee about your event details and brainstorm ideas for the best way to get the word out.

No need to RSVP. We'll see you there.

People who would like to help promote church events and activities are also welcome. We need your skills!

\* **UU Artists Market on November 1 and November 22 from 9 AM - 12:30 PM.** Come to our UU Artists Market in the Lexow Wing on November 1 and 22 from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm. We will have UU artists selling fused glass items, jewelry including contemporary pearl jewelry, paintings including pet portraits and pottery. The Artisans will be selling items that they have made. Also we will have snacks provided by the artists.

\* **BENEFIT SCHOLARSHIP DINNER - Friday, November 6 - 5-7pm**

Please join us for dinner and entertainment to support the Scholarship Fund for our Partner Church in Korond, Romania. Menu includes traditional Hungarian dishes. \$10 per person, \$20 per family. Purchase tickets in courtyard after church or call Mary Fran Raynault at 921-9094.

\* **Call to all UUCS artists! The UUCS Arts Council will be hosting the annual "Members' Show" art exhibit in December**, just in time for the holidays! Each member is invited to submit up to two of their own artworks to be hung in the Lexow Wing Gallery. It is an all-media show, including sculpture, pottery, fabric art and more. Receiving of artworks will be on Friday, **December 4th** from 9am to 12 noon, followed by the opening reception on Sunday, **December 6th**. So wake up your inner artist, and show us your best work! Contact Cathy Cyrus at [cyr603@yahoo.com](mailto:cyr603@yahoo.com) with any questions.

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

\* **Chocolate Prices Going up** Higher cocoa prices worldwide are going to impact our next order of Organic, Fair Trade chocolate bars. Now is the time to stock up. Still \$4 per bar at the Social Justice table.

\* **Meals on Wheels: Kitchen Call!** On Tuesday mornings, substitutes are occasionally needed to volunteer in the kitchen. Come in at 8 a.m., scoop salad into cups, enjoy a coffee break then scoop vegetables into containers. We are finished by 10:15. For more information, contact Dee Widder at [deanawidder@gmail.com](mailto:deanawidder@gmail.com) or 377-9028.

\* **Veg Recipes - For A Healthier Everything.** To encourage earth-healthy eating, the Sustainable Food Task Force posts meatless recipes on the Social Justice/Climate Change section of the church website. Check out the "Reasons To Try Vegan" link on the recipe page by Shakti Marquis.

\* **Call for gun background checks!** Join the Brady Campaign Bayfront Witness every Thursday 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).

\* **Help Refugees in Europe.** The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee asks 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 for immediate, direct assistance to refugees. [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)

**At our courtyard table today:** Solar Energy and Voting Rights petitions; 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 25

### Sermon at both Sarasota and Lakewood Ranch

#### **"Grace," sermon by Roger Fritts**

A colleague (Ann Fox) wrote, "The word grace has both secular and religious meanings. You have a 'grace' period on your credit card or extra 'grace' issues of a magazine. A composer may add 'grace notes' to a score; these notes are not essential to the melody but they add a little flourish to enhance the effect. We can be in someone's 'good graces,' meaning 'good favor' or being well thought of. A person can be graceful or gracious . . ." Rev. Fox's words got me thinking about Unitarian Universalist grace.

Rev. Roger Fritts has been the settled minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota since 2011. Roger grew up attending the Unitarian church in Phoenix and has his Master of Divinity from Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California. He has served five previous UU congregations and has been guest minister in Australia, New Zealand and Scotland. He finds being a Unitarian Universalist minister in Sarasota deeply satisfying.

**\* 10:30 a.m. Music: Bob Delfausse, trumpet; Don Bryn, piano**

**\* 9:30 Forum: "White Privilege: Is Peggy McIntosh's essay, 'Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack,' Still Relevant?"**

In 1988, McIntosh listed numerous examples of her own unacknowledged privileges as a white person, drawn from everyday experiences, such as "I can go shopping most of the time, pretty well assured that I will not be followed or harassed." This advantage was not earned by McIntosh, is not present for non-white minorities, and would have gone unrecognized by McIntosh if she had not engaged in her introspective endeavor. Moderator, Dale Anderson; Presenter, Fred Sirasky.