



October 25, 2015

WEEKLY CONTACT

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE BY ROGER FRITTS

If you are reading this on Friday, I invite you to consider going to hear Rev. John Buchanan who will speak at First Presbyterian Church, 2050 Oak St, Sarasota at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, October 24. Buchanan is the editor and publisher of *The Christian Century*, the most important magazine of progressive, mainline liberal Protestantism. He will be speaking on the importance of building interfaith relationships in the 21st century.

I am happy to announce that Susan Cook-Hallock will be our new Director of Religious Education, starting November 1. Susan has taught in our youth program since 2012. She has served as the chief financial officer of the Helen R. Payne Day Nursery/Children First which is a private, charitable, nonprofit organization that serves more than 600 of Sarasota County's most vulnerable children, birth to five years of age, and their families. She has also been an Administrative Assistant at Bethesda House HIV/AIDS support program in Sarasota. Her college degree was a dual major of Education and Psychology. I welcome Susan to the staff of the church. I thank all of the RE committee, especially Muriel Redifer and Nancy Thomas, for keeping our program going during our search for a new staff person.

SUNDAY EVENTS, OCTOBER 25

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

"Grace," 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.

UUCS, 3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota 34232

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

Bob Delfausse played trumpet in New York City for many years, playing in big bands, small combos, Latin bands, shows, orchestras, and his own brass quintet. He was the band director at Wagner College for 22 years (concert

band and jazz ensemble), where he also taught music theory, conducting, and trumpet. He plays trumpet and piano in many jazz bands, both big and small (the Sarasota Jazz Project, Savory Swing, Sophisticated Swing, etc.). He directs the Royal Aires, a swing big band, and codirects the Venice Community Orchestra with his wife, Ann Alton. Bob is a composer and arranger, having written for various chamber groups (especially brass quintet), concert band, orchestra, and big band.

*** 10:30 a.m. Religious Education: Loving care for infants and toddlers is available and there are also classes for older children and Youth Group.**

*** 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.

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

*** 9:00 a.m. Music: 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 after the service for brunch and fellowship.**

OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS

*** Share the Plate - Planned Parenthood, Teen Theatre**

Sunday's offering will support Planned Parenthood's Teen Theatre, a local theater group that teaches Florida teens about avoiding drugs, bullying, STDs, HIV and teen pregnancy. It is consistently recognized as one of the most effective prevention programs in the country.

"We do plays and films about believing in yourself and following your dreams. About sexuality, drug abuse and HIV/AIDS. About finding out what it means to be alive and taking responsibility for the choices we make every single day."

The theatre group fundraises year round to fulfill its mission. Please give generously to this Planned Parenthood prevention program.

* **UU Singles will enjoy a buffet at Bob's Train Restaurant** at 2211 Fruitville Road, Sarasota 34237 at noon on **Sunday, October 25** (Monthly on 4th Sundays). From the church, go west on Fruitville Road, take a right past the train track onto School Avenue, follow the sign to Bob's Train. 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 or call 350-3571. Carpooling from church recommended.

* **Are you responsible for an upcoming church event that needs to be promoted to members or the general public?** Attend the next Public Relations 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. People who would like to help promote church events and activities are also welcome. We need your skills!

* **Going Home - Our Transitioning Out of Homeless Program**

One year ago, the UUCS, in collaboration with the Sarasota Housing Authority (SHA) began the Transition House program. A renovated home in Newtown was made available by the SHA and our church provided a rent subsidy, allowing a homeless family to live there. Our first family, a mother and her three children moved from the Salvation Army Shelter into the home. Donations from our congregation provided furniture and household goods for the family. Thirteen months later, in September, the family was ready to move into self-sufficiency. This is a testament to not only the success of the program but of our congregation's commitment to help those less fortunate and to make a positive impact on the homeless problem in Sarasota.

Now, our second family has moved into the Transition House. Once again, along with the monthly rent subsidy, we were there to help furnish the house. With very little notice, beds, dressers, and other needed items were donated and delivered by members of our congregation. Thanks to everyone who made this happen. For our family, working parents with three children, this assistance was crucial in getting settled in the home and on the path to self-sufficiency.

In Faith,

Susan Hallock & Sue Ladwig
Transition House Coordinators

* **Sign-Up for 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, Rick Sandler will be in the Jefferson Room on **Sunday, October 25th**, so you can select dates starting in November. Please support this important church activity. If you wish assistance signing up online, please call June Braggalla 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

Make a point of stopping by our Courtyard table to **sign up to volunteer for the Flea Market and to buy a ticket to the Wine & Cheese Pre-Sale event, Friday evening, November 13** beginning at 4 pm. Tickets cover the cost of a great selection of cheeses and wine, hand selected by Henny Mc Dowell. All profits support the church.

ADULT PROGRAMS

* **UPDATES FROM ADULT PROGRAM COMMITTEE:**

The class "Tai Chi for Health" is withdrawn due to small class size. Below, we are highlighting those classes that begin in the next two weeks. It's not too late to enroll. Contact the class facilitator directly.

Tbd	Chinese Calligraphy/Brush Painting	Deborah Thurber, 346-2810
10/29	I-Phone and I-PAD	DeeAnna Dowdle, 350-3571
11/2	Computers and You	DeeAnna Dowdle, 350-3571
11/3	Smart Phone (Android)	DeeAnna Dowdle, 350-3571
11/4	Balance, Walking, Falls Prevention	Mary Hart, PT, 706-4447
11/6	Bird Watching for Fun	DeeAnna Dowdle, 350-3571

*** 10/18/15 ADULT PROGRAM ADDITIONS**

Register for these classes by contacting the facilitator directly:

"Jewelry-Repair and Redesign," beginning date tbd, will meet 1-3 times for 1-2 hours, contact Sue Moreland, 554-8560

"Moral Ground in the Changing Climate," will meet Sundays Jan 10- Feb 28, 9 - 10 am, contact Lea Hall, 928-0745 or Roy Lauridsen, 882-8416

*** 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 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.

*** Religious Literacy Dialog**

Creating and Developing Your Personal Religion will be our main topic between now and November 18. 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 or 365-4027.

CARING

* **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

* **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

* **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. We will also have snacks provided by the artists.

* **Cinema Conversations** - Our next meeting will take place on **Wednesday November 4th** at 7 pm in the Lexow Wing. We will be discussing "Bridge of Spies," a Tom Hanks movie directed by Steven Spielberg. This suspenseful film is based on a true story about a prisoner exchange during the Cold War. AND . . . In keeping with the next holiday, Halloween, we will also be recalling films that have given us a good scare. . .so join us if you dare!

* **Family Council:** a satire on the 2-party system, a play written by member Verna Safran will be presented at **Fogartyville** at 525 Kumquat Court on **November 4** at 7:00 PM.

* **The UU Vegetarian Lunch Group** will meet at Yummy House on Friday, **November 6, at 1:00 p.m.** The restaurant is located at 3232 N. Tamiami Trail, Tel: 351-1688. Non-vegetarians are welcome. For further information or to make reservations, please contact Jean Wieloch at jeanw972@yahoo.com or call 929-3845.

* **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.

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

"I'm tired of living and afraid of dying

"While old man river he just keeps rolling along"

These lines from "Old Man River" keep telling us about the everlasting quandary of life. Now, this along with 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** with the concert **GIVE MY REGARDS TO BROADWAY**, featuring two of Sarasota's best vocalists.

We'll provide more details as we get closer to the event but, if you're curious, check the home page of the church's website or go to beachsun.org/concerts/. Buy tickets in advance online at beachsun.org/concerts/tickets/. This is the 5th year of outstanding concerts at UUCS.

* **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 exhibited 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 with any questions.

* **HONORING THE COURAGE OF PROGRESSIVE PASTORS**

Next February the Church will host a very special lecture series led by the Right Reverend John Shelby Spong, the retired Episcopal Bishop of Newark. Bishop Spong is one of the world's leading progressive theologians, a Westar Fellow, and a prolific author. His trenchant criticisms of Biblical literalism and his radical rejection of much traditional Christian dogma have made him persona non grata in much of the Christian world, while inspiring many who are part of what Bishop Spong calls the "church alumni association."

Appearing with Bishop Spong will be his friend, Rev. Dr. Roger Ray, the pastor of the Community Christian Church (CCC) of Springfield, MO, a very unusual non-denominational progressive church that he founded almost a decade ago after leaving a Disciples of Christ ministry. Rev. Dr. Ray holds a doctorate from Vanderbilt Divinity School, was a 2004 Merrill Fellow at Harvard Divinity School, has authored two highly-regarded books, and has recently delivered seminars on progressive faith in the U.S., Scotland and England. He has thousands of followers who watch and hear his weekly sermons on YouTube and iTunes.

Some of the fine musicians who brilliantly perform the religious and secular music that makes Rev. Ray's Sunday services so unique will also appear in our lecture series. They are led by Sean Spyres, the CCC's director of music, who is a seasoned opera vocalist with degrees in music and opera, who knows how to make the sanctuary "rock!"

Curious? Put it on your calendar for **Friday and Saturday, February 12-13, 2016**. More, including the fee and how to register, will soon be on our website.

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.

* **Second Solar Petition - Do Not Sign.** A group that supports Florida's power companies is now circulating a second constitutional amendment petition that would negate the solar energy petition supported by your Social Justice Committee and Climate Justice Task Force. If both petitions make the 2016 ballot and pass, the second petition will prevent the expansion of solar energy. Read the article on the church website under Social Justice/Facing Climate Justice.

* **Chocolate Chip Cookies recipe.** Check the church website under Social Justice/Facing Climate Change/Recipes for this recipe and other dairy-free and meat-free recipes. Eating healthier is good for you and good for the planet.

* **Invite Your Friends to Support Change.** You have probably signed one or both petitions supporting state constitutional amendments to expand voter rights and solar development. You can invite others to do the same: pick up 5 blank petitions at the Social Justice table (with a simple instruction sheet.) Return the signed petitions, and we'll submit them for you. Thank you for your advocacy for restorative justice and the climate.

* **Sunday Food Favorites.** 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.

* **Tell Buchanan to stand up for gun background checks.** Join the Brady Campaign Bayfront Witness any Thursday from 4-5 p.m. at the Kissing Statue. Wear white, wear a smile and wave. Bring a friend or a leashed pet. Signs provided. For more information, contact Nancy or Dave Evans at nadaevans@comcast.net.

* **Help Refugees in Europe.** The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee asks us for 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 funds for immediate, direct assistance to refugees. www.uua.org

* **Turning Points Says "Thank You."** This one-stop center in Manatee County for people at risk of homelessness was the beneficiary of our August Share-the-Plate. Members gave \$1,366 which the center staff and volunteers greatly appreciate.

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 1

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

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

A colleague said, "If you ask me if I believe in God, and you want a one word yes or no answer, and nothing else, my answer is no. If you have an hour to talk about what you or I might mean by the word 'God,' my answer is yes." The sermon will explore definitions of God.

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

* **9:30 a.m. Forum: "What is destiny? Do you have one?"** Do you believe that you have a destiny? Some Native American tribes send young members of the tribe into the woods fasting and on their own to survive for a few day. The purpose of this activity is for them to have a vision of the kind of person they will be in adulthood - perhaps a boat builder, maybe a shaman - thus the event is called a vision quest. The person is then helped to become their vision. Roy Ingham believes that each of us has such a destiny. If we fulfill that destiny we will live in harmony with the world (Roy's destiny is to be a comedian!) How did he learn this? Roy will tell you at the Forum. Moderator, Louise Stinespring; Presenter, Roy Ingham.