



# **WEEKLY CONTACT**

December 13, 2015

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

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

If you are reading this newsletter Friday and you have some free time Saturday, December 12, from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, I invite you to attend the Islamic Society of Sarasota and Bradenton (ISSB) International Food and Crafts Festival. They describe their event this way. "This festival will bring the Muslim community together, offer support and visibility to Muslim businesses and entrepreneurs, raise funds for the ISSB Masjid [Arabic for place of worship], and offer da'wah to the larger community. [Da'wah is also Arabic and means an invitation to learn about Islam.] In addition to a wide variety of food and non-food and food vendors, this festival will feature fun activities for both youth and adults." The Islamic Society of Sarasota and Bradenton, is at 4350 N. Lockwood Ridge Rd., Sarasota, FL 34234 - phone: (941) 351-3393.

At this time especially, "the most radical thing we can do is to introduce people to one another."

The first week of December our former student minister, Katie Culbert, got a one from the MFC! What does this mean? The only way to become a Unitarian Universalist Minister is for a Unitarian Universalist congregation to vote to ordain you. However, before a congregation votes to ordain someone, most congregations rely on the advice of the Unitarian Universalist Association's Ministerial Fellowship Committee (MFC). The committee looks at the written evidence, interviews the candidate, and votes on whether or not to say to a person, "yes, you are ready to be a Unitarian Universalist Minister." Saying yes by the MFC has several names including "credentialing," "granting Preliminary Fellowship," "passing the MFC" or "getting a one from the MFC." After someone gets a one, the UUA will help the candidate find a congregation to serve. Katie got a one!

## **FRIDAY EVENT, DECEMBER 11**

\* 5-Star Movie: Our next critically acclaimed movie will be shown in the Sanctuary on Friday, **December 11** at 6 p.m. *Lovely, Still* is about an elderly man (Martin Landau) who gets caught up in the excitement of a new love with a woman (Ellen Burstyn) who has moved in across the street. But things aren't quite what they seem to be. The movie is partly funny, partly poignant, and it will make you think about what it means to love someone.

## **SUNDAY EVENTS, DECEMBER 13**

**UUCS, 3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota 34232**

\* **9 a.m. & 11 a.m. "How We Treat Our Children," sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." -- Nelson Mandela

\* **Music: 9 a.m. Mindy Simmons, guitar, 11 a.m. Choir; Don Bryn, Piano**

\* **10:05 am Forum: "Strategies for Containing the Cost of Health Care"**

Containing the cost of healthcare continues to be a major national objective as healthcare cost increases that exceed the Consumer Price Index impact the competitiveness of US industries, threaten the viability of government health benefit programs, and make care increasingly unaffordable for patients and consumers. In this session, we will review seven cost-containment strategies currently functioning in the market beginning with Medicare's "Bundled Payment" initiative. Discussion will focus on how these efforts are being supported or resisted by doctors, hospitals and insurance companies. Presenter, Dale Anderson.

### **Lakewood Ranch**

\* **10:00 a.m. "What Is Worship Like in this Congregation?" VIDEO SERMON by Rev. Roger Fritts**

\* **10:00 a.m. Music: Ed Kinder, Keyboard, Claudia Holmes, Recorders**

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

\* We invite you to stay after the service for brunch and fellowship.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)**

\* **Children and Youth will join together on Sunday, December 13th for a RE Chapel, "Light the Lights."** We will be talking about the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah and how it relates to our UU faith. There will be a menorah with candles to light and we'll play a traditional holiday game with dreidels.

\* **We will also be practicing for our RE Holiday presentation on Sunday.** Our program, "The candles of our Advent Wreath" will be presented in the Sanctuary on December 20th.

\* **Caring Volunteer Needed** - A volunteer is needed in our Nursery room on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Please consider spending one Sunday a month with our littlest UU's. We provide an experienced teenaged assistant to work with you. Please e-mail Susan at [dre@uusarasota.org](mailto:dre@uusarasota.org) or stop by the nursery if you are able to help.

### **OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS**

\* **Second Sunday Potluck is this week.** Please bring food to serve 8 people: salads, sandwiches, desserts. Vegetarian and vegan dishes are encouraged. All are welcome.

### **ADULT PROGRAMS**

**\* Moral Ground in the Changing Climate, an adult education class at Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota Sundays 9-10 a.m., West Wing, January 10-February 28, 2016**

**Co-leaders: Lea Hall and Roy Lauridsen**

We know about the fires, floods, and famines, climate injustice, the sixth extinction. Knowing this, what kind of people do we want to be? What virtues do we cultivate?

Registration, limited to 25, is now open at the new Adult Programs bulletin board and by email to [climate@uusarasota.org](mailto:climate@uusarasota.org).

For more information, look for the announcement on our website's home page at [www.uusarasota.com](http://www.uusarasota.com) or go directly to the class's page at <http://www.uusarasota.com/moral-ground-in-the-changing-climate.html>

**\* Finish the year on a high note** - Come and ride with our UU Bicycle Group on Wednesday, **December 30** at 9:30 am. Watch for details about the location. Call or email Nancy Saum with your questions at 703-297-1749 or [nancy.saum@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.saum@gmail.com).

**\* 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.

## **CARING**

**\* A memorial service for Boris Pundick will be held on Sunday, December 20 at 2 PM.**

**\* Long time member Sally Nelson has moved to a nursing home.** Her address is: 278 C S Floyd Road, Loganville, GA 30052.

**\* A Tribute from Linda Short to honor Sara and Don Slate and their leadership of the backpack program.**

**\* Free Memory Screenings are available at Sarasota Memorial Hospital Memory Clinic.** Call 917-7197 for an appointment.

**\* 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).

\* **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**

\* **Equal Exchange - Place your special order now for fair trade products!** Possibilities include ground and whole-bean coffee, chocolate bars, tea, and more. Please note that we will no longer offer chocolate bars at the Sunday Social Justice Table. Contact [Justice@uusarasota.org](mailto:Justice@uusarasota.org) for more information or to place your order.

\* **Your holiday purchases from Amazon.com can contribute to our UUCS budget.** Just start your holiday purchases at <http://www.uusarasota.com/amazon.php> or by clicking our Amazon search box at "Quick Links" on the UUCS home page and enter a search term or click Go. Amazon will do the rest.

\* **Snap, crackle and pop - have your picture taken for the UU photo directory.** You get a free 8 x 10 picture and a free Directory. You may also order more pictures. Please go to our website and sign up for dates listed in January. Questions: email Gail Colella at [slightlymad1@verizon.net](mailto:slightlymad1@verizon.net).

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

\* **The UUCS Board of Trustees will be holding its monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 15, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lexow Wing.** This meeting is open to our church community.

\* **Now is the time to sign up for our Winter Get Together Dinners. The dates are January 23, February 27, and March 26, 2016.** 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](http://www.uusarasota.org). Deadline for registering is January 3, 2016. Carole Malone, John Brackett, Alice Carden, and Jeanie Craig, Get Together Dinners Committee

\* **"Discovering UUCS" - A Newcomer Orientation**  
**Saturday, January 16, 2016; 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**  
**UUCS - 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!

\* **"Separation Anxiety: How Safe is True Religious Freedom?"** will be presented by Barry Lynn, Executive Director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, at our church for the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services on **Sunday, January 24, 2016.**

**\* SAVE THE DATE!**

The fabulous Serendipity Auction will take place on **January 31, 2016**, right after the second service. It's time now to start thinking about those wonderful and creative items you can donate. Kayaking? Cupcakes? Condos? Creole lunches? Cars? We'll also be looking for volunteers. Familiarity with computers and careful data entry especially needed. Look for the Auction table in the courtyard starting December 27. In the meanwhile, if you have any questions, contact Anne McFarlane at [Auction@uusarasota.org](mailto:Auction@uusarasota.org).

**\* Bishop John Shelby Spong will speak at UUCS on February 12 & 13, 2016!**

His trenchant criticisms of Biblical literalism and radical rejection of much traditional Christian dogma have earned him a worldwide progressive following.

Want examples? He urges that "the biblical story of the perfect and finished creation from which human beings fell into sin is pre-Darwinian mythology and post-Darwinian nonsense."

That's the third of the twelve theses that Bishop Spong drew from his 1998 book, *Why Christianity Must Change or Die*.

Learn more! Come hear him speak to us on February 12 and 13. Details, fee, and registration info are on the UUCS website - <http://www.uucsarasota.com/spong.html>.

**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.**

**\* Resurrection House Winter Needs.** Resurrection House volunteers have asked us for single-person blankets (not Q or K size), backpacks or zippered bags, and men's pants waist 32 and 34. For pick up, contact Sarah Risher at [sarahrisher@mac.com](mailto:sarahrisher@mac.com) or 781-367-8515 or bring them to church (drop off table next to food bin).

**\* Bethesda House Food Donations.** Canned food (pork-and-beans, ravioli are favorites), travel size toiletries, paper products (toilet paper and towels). Bring your donations any Sunday. Thank you!

**\* Special Holiday Stand-Up For Gun Registration.** Meet up with members of the Social Justice committee to boost the local Brady Campaign's effort to encourage the voting public to demand gun registration and background checks. Signs provided. BYO chair. Wear white. Prepare to waive and smile. Thursday, **December 17th** from 4-5 p.m. at the Kissing Statue on the Bayfront.

**\* Share the Plate, Christmas Eve.** The collection plate at our Christmas Eve services will again support the church's Public Housing Fund. We provide one-time assistance to public housing families that are at risk to homelessness due to work, medical or personal emergencies.

\* **Sign the Solar Energy and Voting Rights Petitions.** Available at the Social Justice table. Florida voters only. February deadline!

**Also at our courtyard table today:** Organic, Fair Trade coffees, teas, 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, DECEMBER 20**

**UUCS, 3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota 34232**

\* **9 a.m. & 11 a.m. "A Unitarian Christmas," sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

\* **Music: 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. Thomas Koch, guitar; Don Bryn, piano**

\* **10:05 Forum: Christmas Party with food and music**

**Lakewood Ranch**

\* **10:00 a.m. "How We Treat Our Children," video sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

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