



January 3, 2016

# **WEEKLY CONTACT**

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

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## **SUNDAY EVENTS, JANUARY 3**

### **UUCS, 3975 Fruitville Road**

#### **\* 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. "Finding a Happy Life," sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

By "happy life," Dr. Robert Cloninger means a state of well-being. He defines happiness as "an inner state of calmness, self-awareness, and self-acceptance that arrives when we are physically, mentally, and spiritually integrated." This sermon was originally scheduled for June 21, 2015, but was postponed.

#### **\* Music: 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. Palm Strings Duo; Don Bryn, piano**

The Palm Strings Duet is composed of Karen Tuttle and Shawn Snider. Karen is the concertmaster for The North Port Symphony and teaches both violin and viola. Shawn is the principal violist for The Venice Symphony and plays viola in several other area symphonies.

#### **\* 11 a.m. Religious Education (RE): "Tapestry of Faith"**

**\* 10:05 Forum: "When Lost, Consult a Moral Map."** How much is enough? Specifically, have any of us found a point of inner peace, where we feel we've done enough for social justice, for climate justice, for world peace? And even if we find it for a day, isn't it inevitably disrupted by current events? How can we construct a moral map, each for our own values? This Forum presents more questions than answers, in hopes of reigniting a conversation that supports our values and intentions. Presenter, Roy Lauridsen; Moderator, Fredric Sirasky.

For the last 18 years Roy Lauridsen worked at Harvard University as a construction project manager, energy engineer and finally as the Director of Operations at the Harvard Divinity School. HDS enthusiastically supported reducing the GHG profile and incorporating sustainable practices that now includes a school produce garden, landfill reduction of 80%, and organic landscaping. Three years ago he began a conference that addressed Religion and Sustainability that is ongoing today and has grown from a four-hour discussion to a two-day affair, this year centering on sustainable food.

### **Lakewood Ranch**

#### **\* 10:00 a.m. "Three Simple Steps to Finding Your True Self," sermon by Stephen Gillum**

Stephen Gillum has been teaching meditation for more than 35 years. He started looking into Eastern thought in 1972, as his father was dying of cancer. Finding out who he was and what life was really about became his life's mission. He went to India and studied with Swami Laksmanjoo of Kashmir. He stayed in the Zen monastery Dia Bosatsu Zendo. He also studied with Dr. V. G. Kulkarni, a disciple of swami Rama of Hardwar, and taught classes with him in Cleveland, Pohio and Sarasota. He currently teaches at the Lifelong Learning Academy located at USF and at New College.

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

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

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)**

\* **Happy New Year!**

May our New Year be filled with awe & wonder. May we share many acts of kindness and have much to be grateful for. May we work for a fair and just world. May we care for our earth.

\* **RE Family Meeting - January 10th**

Grab some potluck lunch and join us in the West Wing following the 11am Service. We will be discussing our plans for the RE program and looking for your input and ideas. Child care will be available

\* **Camp Out - January 23rd, 4:30 pm - ???** Join us for a night under the stars in the UUCS East Parking Lot. Pitch a tent and stay the night or just come for the campfire fun. This is a potluck so bring food to share. There will be a fire pit for grilling and marshmallow roasting. Save the date - you don't want to miss the fun. .

\* **Volunteers Needed** - Was one of your New Year's resolutions to become more involved? Here is your chance! The RE program needs volunteers to help one (1) Sunday a month. Yes, it is only one day a month! Please see Susan, DRE or e-mail her at [dre@uusarasota.org](mailto:dre@uusarasota.org) for more information.

## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

Dear UUCS members:

I hope that you saw the notice on the UUCS website or in the Contact issue of December 11th. Katie Culbert, our former intern minister, has passed her UUA ministerial test. She is now eligible to apply for her own congregation. Congratulations to Katie.

However, Katie is not yet a minister. Ordination is the act by which a person becomes a minister. In other religious traditions people might be ordained by a bishop or a council of elders. In our democratic tradition a person can only be ordained by vote of the congregation. It is one of the most important votes a Unitarian Universalist Congregation can take.

Your Finance Committee recommended to the Board that our congregation vote to offer ordination of Katie at a date to be determined. The Board voted unanimously in favor of this recommendation and is now asking that our membership approve the recommendation as well.

Article III of the By-laws requires that we provide our membership a 14 day notice of such meeting by posting on the Church's website, by email to all members entitled to for whom the church has a current email address, and by mail to members entitled to vote who have made a request to the Church office to receive such notice by mail.

The Special Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 17th immediately following the second service. Please plan on attending this meeting and exercising your right to vote. Please notify the office if you wish to vote by proxy.

If we vote to offer to ordain Katie, and she accepts that offer, (we think she will) we will have a special ceremony of ordination in the spring, usually 4:00 p.m. on a Sunday afternoon.

I hope to see you at this special meeting,  
Respectfully,

Bill Payton  
President of the Board of Trustees

#### **OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS**

\* **FREE 8 x 10 colored PHOTO is yours when you sign up to have your picture taken for our photo Directory.** Every four years we publish this so you can "picture" your members/friends. You may order additional pictures for a fee. Please go to our website [uusarasota.org](http://uusarasota.org), scroll down the home page, click on photo and sign up for January 25-29 dates. 100% participation would be great. Thank you.

\* **A new Arts Council exhibit -- "Layers," by UUCS member Donald Diddams -- is now on display in the Lexow Wing Gallery.** Don says "The world is filled with layers of meaning. What will we do with the mysteries and the beauty that surround us?" Spend a few quiet minutes in the Lexow Wing Gallery, then mark your calendar for the artist's reception on Sunday, January 17th at 12 Noon, immediately following the second service.

#### \* **Guest at Your Table**

Guest at Your Table, the annual fundraising program that supports the human rights work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is ending. If you have not renewed or joined the UUSC please consider doing it now. The UUSC works in more than a dozen countries throughout the world, fostering social justice and working toward a world free from oppression. Their work in promoting economic justice, bolstering environmental justice, and protecting rights at risk are grounded in the belief that all people have inherent power, dignity, and rights. Membership envelopes are available at the Social Justice table in the courtyard or you can join the UUSC online at: [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org)

## **FREETHINKERS**

**\* FreeThinkers opens its 2016 season of stimulating talks with popular guest speaker Adam Tebrugge on January 8th. The subject is "Should the Death Penalty in Florida be Reformed or Abolished?"**

The Florida Death Penalty Law may be on the verge of being declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court. If that happens, should Florida attempt to reform its death penalty or abolish capital punishment altogether?

The event is free and will be held in our Sanctuary at 10 a.m. on Friday, January 8. Spread the word. Bring friends.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:** We need helpers. Contact Carole or Steve Martin at [steveandcaroleusa@gmail.com](mailto:steveandcaroleusa@gmail.com). Or Carole at 954-415-7679.

## **ADULT PROGRAMS**

**\* Adult Programs for Winter: Ring in the New Year with these programs which start very early in January:**

All Things Computer with DeeAnna Dowdle: Smart Phone starts 1/5, Computers and You starts 1/6, and I-Phone and I-Pad starts 1/7.

Getting in shape: Exercise with Dr. Bob, starts 1/12; Tai Chi for Health, starts 1/12; Qigong starts 1/18 (Monday class) and 1/21 (Thursday class). Climate Information and Discussions: Sixth Extinction Book Discussion, starts 1/6, Moral Ground in the Changing Climate, starts 1/10.

Questions about a class? Do you have a class you'd like to offer? Call or email:

DeeAnna Dowdle, 941-350-3571 [DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com](mailto:DA@DeeAnnaDowdle.com)

Nancy Saum, 703-297-1749 [nancy.saum@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.saum@gmail.com).

### **\* Religious Literacy Dialog**

**Exploring Select Books by John Shelby Spong** will be the theme of our dialogs from January 6 through February 10 in preparation for Bishop Spong's program on **February 12 and 13** as described at [uuc Sarasota.com/spong](http://uuc Sarasota.com/spong). *Rescuing the Bible from Fundamentalism: A Bishop Rethinks the Meaning of Scripture* will be our book for Wednesday, January 6, from 3:30-5:00 pm in the West Wing followed by *Liberating the Gospels: Reading the Bible with Jewish Eyes* on January 13. You do not need to read the books to share in our dialog. To sign up for our Advocates email list, or for additional information, contact David Ryan at [d2mryan@verizon.net](mailto:d2mryan@verizon.net) or 365-4027.

**\* Ever read a book you could not put down?** Once you pick up Elizabeth Kolbert's "The Sixth Extinction," you may just stay up all night and forget to register for the discussion group starting in January. But don't miss the discussion, which happens every **Wednesday afternoon, 4:00-5:00 pm, in January** here at the church. Sign up by calling the discussion leader Diane Cirksena at 651-253-0552, or at the adult programs bulletin board. Come on Wednesday, January 6 with your copy of the book ... and the first three chapters complete.

**\* 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, 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.uucarasota.com/moral>

**\* The Writing Your Life Story Groups** are hoping to form a new class in January, if there is enough interest. Class membership is limited to ten. Members are asked to write a story each time and read it to the class. John Yoder will be facilitator and the group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 1:30 p.m. Please contact June Brasgalla, 379-6071, to put your name on the waiting list.

## **OUR COMMUNITY**

**\* 2016 is here and we need volunteers for Sunday service ushering.** When making your New Year's resolutions, please include signing up to usher. Consider committing for one Sunday each month or even just once. Please let Gail Colella or myself know which service and date you wish to assist and we'll confirm with you.

Early service: 9:00 AM

Regular service: 11:00 AM

Gail Colella, 941-924-2848, email: [Slightlymad1@verizon.net](mailto:Slightlymad1@verizon.net)

Bill Geller, 941-374-4530, email: [Wageller@gmail.com](mailto:Wageller@gmail.com)

**\* Interweave Sun Coast**, a consortium of the Manatee, Sarasota, and Venice UU Congregations, held its organizational meeting in November 2015. The group welcomes people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Its mission is to develop programs to enhance and support members of the UU churches and the LGBTQI community, as well as participate in activities and events of allied organizations. The initial focus of Interweave Sun Coast will be on the relationships of LGBT persons who must live in extended care facilities. We plan to determine which facilities are welcoming to the LGBT community and raise awareness of the issues involved. The film, "Gen Silent," which introduces the problems that can occur, was shown at UUCS in November and will be shown at UUCOV on **January 11** (see Contact announcement). You are welcome to join us at our next potluck meeting, **January 16** at noon, at the home of the UUCOV minister. Details to follow.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**\* Together let's eat less meat.** Our Second Sunday potluck on **January 10** is sponsored by the Sustainable Eating Task Force. Bring your favorite vegetarian or vegan dish and help promote a healthier and more sustainable world. Stuck for ideas? Contact Loni Zeichner at [gzeichner@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:gzeichner@tampabay.rr.com) or at 351-7785. Loni will send recipe

samples for you to consider or send you to one of her favorite veg-centric websites. Meat items will be accepted, but are not encouraged. All are welcome.

**\* Night at the Movies**

The next in our series of 5-star movies will be shown on

**Friday, January 8, at 6 p.m.**

in the Sanctuary

*The Girl from Paris* is about a woman who has just become a vet, and she wants to buy a farm. She finds the perfect place - but the condition of sale is that she must let the owner stay there for 1 1/2 years. This outstanding movie deals with the relationship between the young woman and the old farmer. It is in French with subtitles. Bring a friend and join us!

**\* The UU Vegetarian Lunch Group** will meet at Isan Thai Restaurant, 5758 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, on Friday, **January 8**, at 1:00 pm. This restaurant has a separate room for groups that will only hold 20 people. Therefore, only the first 20 to RSVP will be able to attend this lunch. For further information or to make reservations, please contact Jean Wieloch at [jeanw972@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanw972@yahoo.com) or 929-3845. Confirmations will be numbered and sent out as RSVPs are received.

**\* LADIES POTLUCK LUNCHEON Saturday, January 9 at noon** - bring a dish to share and a board game, if you wish. Jokes also welcomed. Sign up this Sunday, email Margie Henry at [emhenry0048@verizon.net](mailto:emhenry0048@verizon.net) or if you're unsure, come if you can.

**\* Interweave Film:** "Gen Silent" will be shown at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice (UUCOV) on **Monday, January 11 at 2:00 PM**. Filmed in Boston over a one-year period, this documentary follows six LGBT seniors as they decide whether to stay open about their sexuality or return to the closet so they can survive in long-term care facilities. Regardless of your age, sexuality, or degree of "outness," this film will resonate with you. After all, each of us loves someone who is, or has, or will make this decision.

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

**\* "Discovering UUCS" - A Newcomer Orientation**

**Saturday, January 16, 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!

**\* Our Sanctuary Concert Series presents "Grande Piano: Chopin & Friends," with pianist Eleonora Lvov on Sunday, January 17, at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary.** The celebrated Russian piano virtuoso will perform works by Chopin, Liszt, Debussy, Ravel, and Gershwin. She has achieved acclaim as a performer and popular recording artist. She will play a broad spectrum of music from the Romantic and Impressionistic eras, offering personal impressions and historical remarks about each piece. Tickets are \$15 and are available at [www.uucsarasota.com/LVOV.html](http://www.uucsarasota.com/LVOV.html) or at the door.

**\* See Sarasota and More  
January 20**

The January "See Sarasota and More" adventure is a docent tour of the Phillippi Estate on S. Tamiami Trail on Wednesday, January 20. In addition to the tour, we will eat lunch at Sweet Tomatoes in the Landings Shopping Center and visit the large Farmer's Market at the Phillippi Estate. Join us as we learn about the owners of the mansion who were clothiers from the Chicago area, and the mansion which is on the National Register of Historic Places. We will be able to see both floors of the mansion, but there is no elevator. Registration for the trip will take place in the courtyard after both services on **Sunday, January 3 and 10.**

**\* EPISCOPAL BISHOP JOHN SHELBY SPONG WILL SPEAK AT UUCS ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12 & 13! You should attend!**

Bishop Spong's career has been marked by his sharp criticism of biblical literalism and much of traditional Christian dogma, and by his outspoken support for ordaining gay clergy, for gay marriage, and for electing women leaders of national churches. His earnest plea is for a new, rational, humane Christianity.

Just a few weeks ago Americans United for Separation of Church and State named him their "Person of the Year" at the AUSCS annual meeting in D.C., where Bishop Spong gave the keynote address. The AUSCS praised his "bold defense of separation of Church and State and tenacious support of the rights of conscience for all."

Bishop Spong is a master analyst who writes and speaks humanely and clearly about the subject he loves. You will leave his lectures with a new appreciation for modern, progressive theology.

After retiring in 2000 after 24 years as the Bishop of Newark and 20 years as a parish priest in North Carolina and Virginia, he lectured and taught at Harvard, Drew, the University of the Pacific, and the Berkeley Graduate Theological Union.

He is a best-selling author whose books have sold well over one million copies. His weekly and biweekly online columns reach thousands worldwide. His latest book, *Biblical Literalism: A Gentile Heresy*, will go on sale in the week following his UUCS appearance.

He delivers many public lectures each year, but only once years ago did he lecture in Sarasota. Now we have our chance to hear and speak to him in person!

Details, fee, and registration info are on the UUCS website <http://www.uucsarasota.com/spong.html>. Those who register before January 16 get a discount!

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

\* **Backpack Volunteers:** Sign Up is now open for February and March packing at the church. See Sara or Don Slate in the courtyard or email [dsslate@comcast.net](mailto:dsslate@comcast.net).

\* **Attend Interfaith Climate Conference Jan 28-30 at Northland Church in Longwood, Florida.** The Paris Climate Talks challenged local communities to take the lead! [Read more.](#)

\* **Learn at UU Justice Florida Legislative Day Feb. 8-9 in Tallahassee.** Learn about Florida's legislative process and how your UU values can influence it. Training by League of Women Voters. [Read more.](#)

\* **Resurrection House Needs** 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 your donations to church. The drop off table is near the food bin.

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

\* **How To Eat Healthy Away From Home.** Here are [two guides](#) for finding healthy restaurants. One is perfect when traveling, even out of the country. Also find them on the church website under Social Justice/Climate Change.

**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.

## **SUNDAY EVENTS, JANUARY 10**

### **UUCS, 3975 Fruitville Road**

\* **9 a.m. & 11 a.m. "Character for President," sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

"People do not seem to realize that their opinion of the world is also a confession of character." Emerson

\* **Music: 9 a.m. Mindy Simmons, Guitar and Vocals & 11 a.m. Choir; Don Bryn, piano**

\* **11 a.m. Religious Education (RE): "Tapestry of Faith"**

\* **10:05 Forum: "War Is a Racket."** Based on a 1935 book by retired US Marine Corps Major General and two time Medal of Honor recipient Smedley D. Butler, a discussion of how business interests commercially benefit (including war profiteering) from warfare. Presenter, Bill Payton, Moderator, Marie Keeney.

### **Lakewood Ranch**

\* **10:00 a.m. sermon by Rev. Margaret Beard**

\* **10:00 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.**