



# **WEEKLY CONTACT**

January 31, 2016

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

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

I hope to see most of you at the **Serendipity Auction**, Sunday after the second service. It is an important fund raiser, but it is also an important social event and a set up for other spring social events. Thank you to all the volunteers who are working hard to make this event a success.

If you have never been to one of our church auctions before, the afternoon is a relaxed party, with good food and conversation. It comes on the last day of January just when we have many wonderful winter visitors. It is a good time to make new friends. Come and stay 'til the bidder end.

## **SUNDAY EVENTS, JANUARY 31**

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

#### **\* 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. "What Would You Do If You Won the Lottery," Sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

The sermon is an exploration of human values. If you suddenly had access to a great deal of money, what would you do? Help fund a program to end global warming? Fund a free clinic for people who need health care? Endow your church?

#### **\* Music: 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Jane Hoffman, flute; Don Bryn, piano**

Former Director of The Hecht School of Music in Sarasota, Jane currently teaches at State College of Florida, coaches woodwinds at Booker Middle School (visual and performing arts school), coaches flute at Riverview High School and Pre-k at Chabad of Sarasota. She is newly appointed Principal Flute with the Sarasota Pops Orchestra.

**\* 11 a.m. Religious Education (RE): Art Project** - On Sunday, January 31st, we will be working on an art project - creating beautiful garden stepping stones. Remember to dress in clothes that can get dirty or bring a cover up. Everyone will meet in the PK-1st Grade classroom and move to the playground to work on our stepping stones.

**\* Serendipity Auction.** Child care is being offered during the auction for any child 10 and under. There will be a sign up following the 11 a.m. service in the RE PK-1st grade classroom.

**\* 10:05 Forum: "Dementia and Perceptions of Reality"**

During the progression of dementia, a person's perceptions of reality become confused and distorted. It is essential that caregivers, family and friends understand these perceptions of reality in order to maintain communication, create a bridge between the two worlds, strengthen emotional bonds, and improve our care of them.

Katya De Luisa is a Creativity Coach for seniors specializing in working with people with dementia and their families. She is also a mixed media collage artist, exhibiting throughout the US and Central America (Costa Rica is her part time residence). In 2000, she developed a picture communication program for people with dementia while in partnership with the Sarasota/Manatee Alzheimer's Association and Tidewell. Funding from the Sarasota Community Foundation enabled her to develop a caregiver training program and conduct workshops throughout the tri-county area. This program has since been presented at several conferences on aging, been featured in numerous media publications and seminars conducted both nationally and internationally.

**Lakewood Ranch, driving directions on our website**

**\* 10:00 a.m. "Finding a Happy Life," video sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

**\* 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.**

**OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS**

**\*\*\* SERENDIPITY AUCTION SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2016 \*\*\***

**Yes, the day has arrived!** It's time to purchase that wonderful meal, exciting outing, or precious item that you've seen in the Catalog. It all starts right after the 11 a.m. service at 12:15, and lasts until the rooms start closing at 1:20. Your ticket is your admission to the fabulous buffet, and provides you with a bidding number. Haven't bought your ticket yet? Just stop by the ticket table before 12:30, and you can still buy one. How to pay? Payments for tangible items will be today before 2:00, and you can take your item home with you. All other items may be paid for at Pickup and Pay which starts Sunday, February 7.

And be sure to make your purchases **TODAY**, because **THIS YEAR** there will be **NO AFTER-AUCTION**, second Sunday sale. **HAPPY AUCTIONING!**

**ADULT PROGRAMS**

**\* CREATE A STORYBOOK OF YOUR LIFE** - No prior art or writing experience necessary. In this 3-part series, create a collage-illustrated journal of automatic writings (subconscious streaming of words into poetry and story). Pictures are like dream images; powerful symbols pertaining to your life and collage-making allows expression of these thoughts and emotions. Combined with the automatic writing of story and poetry, your journal becomes a creative expression of your life story. Three consecutive Fridays, February 5th, 12th, and 19th, 1-3 p.m. There is a one-time \$5 fee. Contact Katya DeLuisa, 349-1317, [kdeluisa@yahoo.com](mailto:kdeluisa@yahoo.com).

\* **BABY BOOMERS & CONSCIOUS LIVING GROUP** (ongoing). Interested in healthy aging? Join this group to learn and connect with others as we explore: holistic practices, creative activities, alternative medicine, and conscious living. We will coordinate attending events, get-togethers, presentations, and workshops that further self-awareness, creative change and fun. All ages welcome. Just bring an open mind. The first and 3rd Thursdays each month, beginning Feb. 4, 3-5 p.m. There is a one-time \$5 fee. Contact Katya DeLuisa, 349-1317, [kdeluisa@yahoo.com](mailto:kdeluisa@yahoo.com).

## CARING

\* **If you live alone, become injured or ill and have a pet**, be sure to have a notification card in your wallet letting emergency personnel know whom to contact to care for your pet.

\* **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

### \* **UUs in the News**

Books for Sale presents *UU Musings* published by June Brasgalla. The book represents stories by 14 members and friends of our church community who are enrolled in the "Writing Your Life Story" class. The book costs \$12 with the profits going to the Transition House. Copies may be purchased in our church bookstore, on Amazon, and from June Brasgalla.

\* **If you were unable to have your UUCS Directory photo taken** during the recent sessions, please call LifeTouch at 866-756-0281. They will schedule you at another venue, if available.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

*Exploring Select Books by John Shelby Spong* will be the theme of our dialogs through February 10 in preparation for Bishop Spong's program on February 12 and 13, see below, also described at [uucarasota.com/spong](http://uucarasota.com/spong). *Jesus for the Non-Religious: Recovering the Divine at the Heart of the Human* will be our book for Wednesday, **February 3**, from 3:30-5:00 p.m. in the West Wing followed by *Jesus for the Non-Religious: Recovering the Divine at the*

*Heart of the Human* on **February 10**, when we will meet in the Library (instead of our usual room in the West Wing). 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.

\* **The UU Vegetarian Lunch Group** will meet at Infuzion Restaurant, 6090 N. Lockwood Ridge Road, Sarasota, on Friday, **February 5**, at 1:00 p.m. For further information, and to make reservations, please contact Jean Wieloch at [jeanw972@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanw972@yahoo.com) or via phone: 929-3845.

\* The showing of our next **5-Star Movie will be Wednesday, February 17** at 6:00 p.m. The movie is *A Perfect World*, starring Kevin Costner and Clint Eastwood. It's an outstanding story of a man who is a criminal but has the capacity for love and connection. The movie suggests that we're all flawed human beings, just doing the best we can.

\* **FreeThinkers Series - Fridays at 10 a.m.:**

February 5 - Shade in the Sunshine State, Liz Coursen

March 4 - Daughters of Susan B Anthony, Gayle Williams

March 18 - She-Roes of Africa, Debi Frock

April 1 - Compassion & Choices, Winnie Downes

May 6 - Topic Pending, Dr. Robin Shapiro

\* **Church Life 5.5 - In Celebration of our Free Religion.** You are invited to the West Central Cluster day of workshops at the UU Church of Tampa on **Saturday, February 6**, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Five workshops will be led by experts in congregational life. The Keynote Address will be presented by the Rev. Kenn Hurto, "Our Name Should Have Been: The Free Church in America." Find details and the registration form in the church office. Jeff Harper, President of the West Central Cluster of UU Congregations says, "This promises to be a good day for area UUs to get together."

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

Bishop Spong is among the most celebrated and influential living theologians.

His career has been marked by his sharp criticism of biblical literalism and much of traditional Christian dogma. He has supported ordination of gay clergy, gay marriage, and election of women to leadership of national churches. And he has been a tireless advocate of separation of church and state, for which he won the AUSCS "Person of the Year award" at its 2015 annual meeting.

After retiring in 2000 after 24 years as the Bishop of Newark, he lectured and taught at Harvard, Drew, the University of the Pacific, and the Berkeley Graduate Theological Union. His books have sold well over one million copies. His online columns reach thousands worldwide.

Bishop Spong's latest book, *Biblical Literalism: A Gentile Heresy*, will go on sale worldwide in the week following his UUCS appearance, but his publisher, HarperCollins, has delivered some of the new books to us to add to those for early sale and autographing AT THE EVENT.

Bishop Spong laments that, during the explosion of human knowledge in the 500 years since Martin Luther initiated the Reformation by posting his 95 theses, Christian churches have largely continued to pretend that the Bible, the creeds, the doctrines and dogmas remain inviolate, unchanged, and unchallenged. But Bishop Spong challenges them with his own 12 theses, which he has restated and sharpened in his online columns in the last four weeks.

To illustrate: He deplores "atonement theology" for presenting a barbaric God and a victimized Jesus, and for turning humans into guilt-filled creatures. He asserts that the phrase "Jesus died for my sins" is not just dangerous, but "absurd." And he condemns appeals to ancient codes like the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount to define and separate good from evil; instead insisting, "contemporary moral standards must be hammered out in the juxtaposition between life-affirming moral principles and external situations."

Want to learn more? Bishop Spong delivers many public lectures each year, but only once years ago did he lecture in Sarasota. Now we can hear and speak to him in person! Don't miss the chance. **For details, schedule, fee, and registration information see 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@uucsarasota.org](mailto:justice@uucsarasota.org) or stop by the Social Justice table on Sunday.**

\* **Influence Florida's Legislature.** An educational and fun day! Learn how at the annual UU Justice Florida Legislative Day February 8-9 in Tallahassee. Learn about Florida's legislative process and how our UU values can influence it. Training by League of Women Voters. Register at [UUJusticeFL.org](http://UUJusticeFL.org).

\* **Whole Bean Coffee, Chocolate Bars and other Fair Trade items**, which are not available at the Sunday table, are available by special order. For more information, talk to Suzie Brucklacher or write to her at [justice@uucsarasota.org](mailto:justice@uucsarasota.org), subject line: Fair Trade Special Order.

\* **Backpack Volunteers** sign up now for March and April packing at the church. See Sara or Don Slate in the courtyard or email [dsslate@comcast.net](mailto:dsslate@comcast.net).

\* **Single-Person Blankets**, backpacks, zippered bags, and men's pants waist 32 and 34 are still needed at Resurrection House. Bring your donations Sunday to the table just outside the sanctuary.

**\*Bethesda House Food Donations.** 14-oz. canned food (pork-and-beans, ravioli are favorites), travel size toiletries, paper products (toilet paper and towels). Bring your donations on Sunday. Thank you!

**\* Easier to Eat Healthy, When Eating Out.** Here are two guides for finding healthy restaurants. Both are local and one has a free phone app that 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, FEBRUARY 7**

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

**\* 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. "From Unitarian to Anglican: T. S. Eliot," Sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

We are having a retired Episcopal Bishop John Shelby Spong come to speak at our Unitarian Universalist Church February 12 and 13. This causes my mind to wander to the most famous poet of the 20th century, T. S. Eliot who was raised Unitarian. His cousin, Thomas Lamb Eliot, was my friend and an important leader in the Unitarian Universalist Church in Bethesda where I was a minister. We normally think that people journey from more traditional religion to Unitarian Universalism. However, T. S. Eliot traveled the other direction from Unitarianism to the English Anglican church (Episcopal in the United States). We can learn from his story.

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

**\* 11 a.m. Religious Education (RE): Classes are offered during the service for children and youth.**

**\* 10:05 Forum: "The Real Government in the United States"**

Does what we learn in school about how the U. S. Government works miss the real story of who is in charge and how they govern? A discussion of who they are and how they do it. Presenter, John Stinespring; Moderator, Don Diddams.

### **Lakewood Ranch, driving directions on our website**

**\* 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.**