



February 14, 2016

# **WEEKLY CONTACT**

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

3975 Fruitville Road, Sarasota FL 34232

(941) 371-4974

Fax (941) 377-4897

[www.uusarasota.org](http://www.uusarasota.org)

---

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

When Valentine's Day falls on a Sunday some of us feel obliged to give sermons about relationships. I have been exploring this topic for many years. In 1993, while serving a church in Evanston, Illinois, I wrote a book about wedding ceremonies. In doing so, I looked at books by other clergy. A previous Sarasota Unitarian Universalist minister, Khoren Arisian, published *THE NEW WEDDING* in 1973, which included an "Anarchist-Feminist Wedding." The bride said, "We do not want to get married except for reasons of prudence." In contrast, hoping for good sales, I wrote the most conventional book I could. As a result, I left out my favorite relationship quotes. For Valentine's Day I'll share them with you.

"When two people are under the influence of the most violent, most insane, most delusive, and most transient of passions, they are required to swear that they will remain in that excited, abnormal, and exhausting condition continuously until death do them part." -- George Bernard Shaw

"An archaeologist is the best husband a woman can have. The older she gets the more interested he is in her." -- Agatha Christie

Happy Valentine's Day!

## **SUNDAY EVENTS, FEBRUARY 14**

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

**\* 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. "Love, a German American Perspective," Sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

On Valentine's Day I will describe perspectives on love by a Jewish German American, a Unitarian German American and a Swiss American from German-speaking Zurich. I will contrast these perspectives with the Italian perspective on love, represented by Leo Buscaglia also known as "Dr. Love."

I am assuming a high degree of maturity among you. Generalizations about ethnic background are dangerous because they encourage us to put people in boxes and not see in each person their uniqueness, their individuality. I trust that you will hear my generalizations about ethnic background without becoming trapped by them. I have faith that you will take what I say as one tool that can be useful in understanding yourself and others, but not as stereotypes cast in stone to be applied in every situation.

\* **Music: 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Bharat Chandra, clarinet; Don Bryn, piano**

Bharat Chandra has served as Principal Clarinet of the Sarasota Orchestra since 2001. He also serves as Principal Clarinet of the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music, directed by Marin Alsop, and the Nordic Symphony Orchestra, directed by Anu Tali. Bharat is founder and president of the non-profit organization, KAETA (Kids And Elders Through Arts) [www.kaeta.org](http://www.kaeta.org), and lives with his wife and two daughters in Sarasota. Bharat participated in the NAXOS recording of James Whitbourn's "Annelies," which was nominated for a 2013 Grammy Award.

\* **Religious Education (RE):**

**Nursery:** Loving care for infants and toddlers is available during the 9 am Service, Forum & 11 am Service.

**Child Care** for children 10 and under is available during the 9 am Service & Forum.

**RE Classes** available during the 11 am service.

\* **10:05 Forum: "Soaring Past 7 Billion: Population Challenges for a Crowded World."** A discussion of global population growth, its causes and impacts, and how we can meet those challenges. Presenter, John Seager, President, Population Connection (formerly Zero Population Growth); Moderator, DeeAnna Dowdle.

**Lakewood Ranch, 6600 River Club Blvd, Bradenton 34202**

\* **10:00 a.m. "Drunken Priests and Baby Talking Prophet," Sermon by Rev. Roger Ray**

Rev. Dr. Roger Ray is 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.

\* **10:00 a.m. Music: Musicians from Rev. Roger Ray's Community Christian Church.**

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

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)**

\* **Celebrating Love** - Valentine's Day, it's all about the love. In RE, we'll celebrate the day with treats, games and crafts. But, we'll also remember the thought behind Valentine's Day; the love that bind us to our families, friends and each other. As we celebrate the day, remember the words of Oliver Wendell Holmes, "Love is the master key that opens the gates of happiness."

**\* RE Classes are available during the 11 am Service:**

**Valentine's Day Party - Sunday, February 14th.** We'll join the congregation in the Sanctuary for a Valentine's "Story for All Ages." We'll also be sharing a special Valentine's treat with the congregation! After our time in Service, the children and youth will enjoy a Valentine's party in the West Wing.

**\* Parent Night Out -** The RE Committee is hosting a Parents Night Out on Saturday, February 20th. This night is for the parents to enjoy, whether it is for a movie, quiet dinner, or just some "me" time. Children will enjoy a fun evening together with dinner, games and a movie. Sign up in the RE Department.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

**\* Please welcome the new members who joined in January and February:**

Sandra Baker

Linda Bodycomb

Erika Brigham

David and Nancy Callahan

Robert DeFillippi

Katya DeLuisa

Robert Downie

John Feavearyear

David and Susan Feltus

James and Kathryn Fonte

Carolyn Haase

Marjorie Henry

Cecilia Jonsson-Bisset

Mary Kelley

James and Sherry Livingston

Edward Loomis

Barbara Olson

Agnes Schipper

Mitzi Seith

Arianne and Dianne Shedlock

Suzanne Straub

Henry Warren

Elizabeth Wolfe

## **OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS**

**\* Sunday, February 14, is Second Sunday Potluck.** Please bring food to serve 8 people: salads, sandwiches, desserts. Vegetarian and vegan dishes are encouraged. All are welcome.

**\* SERENDIPITY AUCTION 2016 A GREAT SUCCESS!**

Due the hard work of our many volunteers, and the amazing contributions from the membership, the Auction was a great success, netting our church in excess of \$30,000. It was attended by 300 people, who enjoyed the wonderful buffet and the warm fellowship of this community. Well done!

**NOTE: THE LAST DAY FOR PICKUP AND PAY IS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14:** If you haven't paid yet, be sure to stop by the Pickup and Pay Desk today. We will have your invoice ready, and can take cash, check, or credit card. You will find us in the Office inside the Lexow Wing. The main room may be crowded with the Potluck Lunch, so it may be easier to reach the office through the side door near the parking lot, close to Fruitville Road. And there are still a few tangible items to paid for and picked up, so be sure to stop by and take that treasure home with you. **Congratulations to you all!**

**\* The Arts Council invites you to see the new exhibit of paintings by UUCS member Bet Cummings, now on display in the Lexow Wing Gallery!** Bet says, "I'm interested in the way beauty can emerge from color, expressing things we can all understand, without words. No matter the subject, all of these paintings are about the effects of color." Spend a few minutes in the Lexow Wing Gallery to appreciate the beauty, then mark your calendar for the **artist's reception on Sunday, February 21st at 12 noon, immediately following the second service.**

**CARING**

**\* Jim Wise is recovering from a bike accident;** his ankle has been severely injured. Please send get well cards to 700 Bird Bay Drive, Venice 34285.

**\* A Tribute from David Ohlson in memory of Buzz Pundick.**

**\* A Tribute from Tony Dalsimer to thank Diane Happy for "bailing him out."** She proved to be most knowledgeable and helpful.

**\* Check the Caring Resource wall rack in the Lexow wing for helpful pamphlets.** Information on facilities, organizations and a massage therapist that makes house calls is available.

**\* Safety Tip:** Add a taxi phone number into your cell phone. . . you never know when you might need it.

**\* 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**

\* **NEW! Now forming - UU Women's Group** - women of all ages are welcome to join us on **Saturday, February 20**, at 10 am in the West Wing, for coffee/tea, sweets, and a meeting with discussion. Come see what

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

\* **The UUCS Board of Trustees will be holding its monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 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.

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

### **Drum Circle Distillery and Early Dinner @ Sweet Tomatoes - University Parkway**

**Wednesday, February 17, 2016, 2:30 - 6:15**

Award winning Siesta Key Rum, made from Florida ingredients, is produced at the Drum Circle Distillery in Sarasota. We have arranged a tour of their facility, tasting room, and gift shop for Wednesday, February 17. We will gather at the church at 2:30 for a 2:45 departure in carpools. Our tour is at 3:30 and we will then go for an early-bird dinner at the Sweet Tomatoes Restaurant on University Parkway. There is no charge for the tour and the price for dinner and a beverage is under \$10.00, which you will pay on your own. You may sign up for this trip on Sunday in the courtyard after the service. Cheers!

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

Insights from the Bishop Spong Event will be the theme of our dialog on **Wednesday, February 17**, from 3:30-5:00 pm in the West Wing. You do not need to have read Spong's books nor to have attended Spong's program 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.

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

**Saturday, March 5, 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!

**\* *When Irish Eyes Are Smiling: A St. Patrick's Day Celebration***

He's been called one of the true musical gems to come out of Ireland and on **Sunday, March 6**, vocalist/guitarist Paul Duffy will headline our largest concert of the year in "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling," as a tribute to St. Patrick's Day.

Paul and his musical group will run through a repertoire of the greatest Irish folk songs ever sung, tunes like "Molly Malone," "Danny Boy," "Dirty Old Town," and "What Do You Do With a Drunken Sailor." A gifted musician, Duffy plays the saxophone, trumpet, flute, guitar, keyboards, drums, bass, tin whistle and bagpipes. He attended the Dublin Conservatory of Music to learn to read music. His concerts at UUCS draw audiences from all over Southwest Florida. Tickets are \$15. (Buy online in advance at <http://www.beachsun.org/concerts/tickets/> to be sure of getting a seat.)

**\* The Southern Region of the UUA invites you to join them for the Florida Spring Gathering on Saturday, March 12 at the Unitarian Universalists of Clearwater for fun, networking, cooperative learning, and covenant!**

The morning *Keynote on Covenant* will be presented by Connie Goodbread, Congregational Life Staff, and Margie Manning, Elder. Lunch will be served before an afternoon of topical workshops. The closing worship will make everyone feel connected and revitalized! A portion of the Unitarian Universalist film series "Long, Strange Trip" will be offered as an optional evening activity. Please feel free to stay over Saturday night and join in for worship on Sunday morning!

**\* CALLING ALL UUCS AUTHORS**

We are holding an Authors Showcase book sale and signing on **Sunday, April 3**, 9:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., in the Lexow Wing. Any UUCS member or friend who has authored a book and would like to participate in this event is welcome. We encourage books on a variety of subjects and genres - fiction, non-fiction, poetry, children's books. The church receives 15% of the total sales collected for each book. The deadline for signing up is: **MARCH 13**. For further information, please contact: Jim Keeney at [jim.keeney@gmail.com](mailto:jim.keeney@gmail.com) or 928-3378, or Lynne Singer at [lynnes500@gmail.com](mailto:lynnes500@gmail.com) or 726-7463.

**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.**

**\* Encouraging Pediatricians to ASK.** Volunteers are needed to help the local chapter of the Brady Campaign to write Sarasota county pediatricians about ASK "Asking Saves Kids." The personal letter will include informed consent and fliers for patient waiting rooms. The project encourages discussion about the danger to children of unlocked guns in friends' homes. To learn more about volunteering, contact Nancy or Dave Evans at

[nadaevans@comcast.net](mailto:nadaevans@comcast.net). Or talk with them on Thursday 4-5 p.m. at the weekly Bayfront Witness for Gun Control, near the Kissing Statue.

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

\* **Bring A Food Donation for Bethesda House.** 14-oz. canned food (pork-and-beans, ravioli are favorites), travel size toiletries, paper products (TP and towels). Bring your donation to the collection bin on Sunday. Thank you!

\* **Thank you For Donating Blankets,** backpacks, zippered bags, and men's pants to Resurrection House. Immediate needs have been met. Thank you!

\* **Whole Bean Coffee, Chocolate Bars and other Fair Trade items,** which are not available at the Sunday table, are available by special order. It is easy to place one. Talk to Suzie Brucklacher or write to her at [justice@uusarasota.org](mailto:justice@uusarasota.org), subject line: Fair Trade Special Order. The table does have a fresh box of Fruit & Nut bars (\$1) and small chocolates (5/\$1).

\* **Sign the Solar Energy Petition.** The organizers of this petition have renewed efforts in 2016 to collect signatures. While this state constitutional amendment to expand solar energy in Florida will not appear on the November ballot, it will appear on the 2018 ballot with additional signatures. The petition is available to sign at the social justice table. Florida registered voters only.

**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 21**

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

\* **9 a.m. & 11 a.m. "Creating Change Through Humanism," Mr. Roy Speckhardt, CEO of the American Humanist Association (AHA) and Ms. Maggie Ardiente the Executive Director of the AHA**

American Humanist Association Executive Director Roy Speckhardt will explore the modern state of humanism and how our forward-thinking outlook, with its emphasis on critical thinking and self-reflection, can be at the forefront of pressing social issues.

\* **Music: 9 a.m. Mindy Simmons, guitar; 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: "Visible Men Academy"**

VMA is a tuition-free public charter school for boys in Bradenton that opened in 2013. It currently has boys from grades K-5, and adds a new class each year. The VMA vision is to lead boys toward a realization of their innate strong character -- boys who are family orientated, community conscious, globally aware, and equipped to meet the later challenges of high school and college environments. Presenter, Neil Phillips.

Neil Phillips is Founder, Executive Director and Principal of VMA. After receiving his B.A in English and American Literature from Harvard University, Neil went on to play professional basketball in Australia. He has been an educational administrator for the last eleven years, serving as the Assistant Headmaster at the Landon School for Boys in Bethesda, MD, and as Interim Head of Upper School at the Out-of-Door Academy in Sarasota. He is an Aspen Institute Educational Entrepreneurship Fellow; a member of the inaugural Echoing Green/Open Society Foundations Black Male Achievement Fellowship; a Nantucket Project Senior Fellow and was recently awarded the Nantucket Project Audience Award for his talk, "Race to Truth;" and serves on the Board of Directors of Washington Jesuit Academy in Washington, DC. He lives in Sarasota with his wife, Shannon Rohrer-Phillips and their two sons.

**Lakewood Ranch, 6600 River Club Blvd, Bradenton 34202**

**\* 10:00 a.m. Video Sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts. Worship Leader: Kathleen Konicek-Moran**

**\* 10:00 a.m. Music: Dick Konicek-Moran, Keyboard, Claudia Holmes, Recordors**

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