



March 20, 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**

The first week in February I wrote in this newsletter that Sue Phillips and Alison Miller were the nominees of the Presidential Search Committee for election as Unitarian Universalist Association President for a six-year term starting in June 2017. Two weeks later, Sue Phillips dropped out.

I suggested to the Search Committee that they take no action, which would have left us with one candidate. However, others feel that the Association benefits from a contested election. The Presidential Search Committee has encouraged the Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray (the third choice of the committee) to enter the race.

Miller serves as Senior Minister of the Morristown, New Jersey, Fellowship. Frederick-Gray serves as Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Phoenix. Unless someone else drops out or other persons are added by petition, we will have two excellent ministers running for UUA President. The election will take place at our association's General Assembly in New Orleans, June 21-25, 2017.

The 2016 General Assembly will be in Columbus, Ohio, June 22-26. If you would like to be a delegate from our church, let our Board know. Registration is now open. Rates increase May 1. <http://www.uua.org/ga/registration>

## **SATURDAY EVENT, MARCH 19**

\* **Women's Club meeting:** All UU women are invited to attend our next general meeting on Saturday morning, **March 19**, at 10 am, in the West Wing. Please bring a small snack to share, if you wish, and topics for future monthly meetings.

## **SUNDAY EVENTS, MARCH 20**

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

**12:15 p.m. Annual Meeting follows the 11 a.m. service**

\* **9:00 and 11:00 a.m. "The Dublin Unitarians," sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

In August I spent a Sunday morning attending worship at the Dublin Unitarian Church and in September I had a two-hour lunch with the minister. The Sunday after St Patrick's Day, the sermon will explore the beliefs of Irish Unitarians.

\* **Music: 9:00 a.m. Mindy Simmons; 11:00 a.m. Choir, Don Bryn, piano**

\* **10:05 Forum: "Racial Injustice: Thinking Beyond Affirmative Action to Reconciliation"**

Do we need a South African-type Truth and Reconciliation Commission to force us to re-examine and acknowledge the racial injustice that persists today? Would police body cameras, for example, be a form of reparations? Do we need to give up some things we hold dear in order to "right" past and continuing wrongs? Presenter, Marie Keeney; Moderator, Don Diddams.

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

\* **10:00 a.m. video sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts, "Welcome to Lakewood Ranch, Fellow Baby Boomers!"**

People born between the years 1946 and 1964, ranging in age between 51 and 70 are retiring. Some are retiring to Lakewood Ranch. Some are joining our church! This sermon, by our Baby Boomer minister, is a way of saying welcome.

\* **Music: Ed Kinder, Keyboard; Claudia Holmes, Recorders**

\* **10:00 a.m. Nursery and Childcare provided**

\* **11:00 a.m. Food and Fellowship**

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

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)**

\* **Tapestry of Faith** classes will be held on **Sunday, March 20th**. The Pk-1st graders will continue with the "Wonderful Welcome" curriculum and will learn about the importance of spirit in our congregation. The 2-5th Graders are working on the lesson "Finding Beauty in the Uniqueness." They will explore how our community is stronger when everyone is welcomed the way they are. The Youth Group will be choosing the next world religion to explore from the curriculum "Neighboring Faiths."

\* **Thank you** to everyone who donated food or volunteered at **All Faiths Food Bank (AFFB)**. We donated two large barrels full of food and had a great turnout of children, youth and adults to sort and package boxes at AFFB on March 12th.

\* **Wish List** - Yes, the RE program has a wish list, and you might be on it! We're looking for the crafty, the travelers, the musical, and the skilled who could enhance our summer program. Please consider spending 15-20

minutes on a Sunday this summer sharing your gift. Interested, please see Director of RE, Susan Cook-Hallock, following the service, or contact her at [dre@uusarasota.org](mailto:dre@uusarasota.org) or call 371-4974, ext. 7.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

**\* Please welcome the new members who joined UUCS at Lakewood Ranch:**

Dick and Kathleen Konicek-Moran

Barb and Dave Hewitt

## **OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS**

**\* ANNUAL MEETING:** On Sunday, March 20th, immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service, we will hold the UUCS Annual Congregational Membership Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the UUCS Endowment Board. Items to be considered for vote by the members are: Election of the Board of Trustees, members for both organizations, members of the UUCS Nominating Committee and the church's 2016-17 budget. There are printed copies of the agenda and supporting materials available in the church office.

## **CARING**

**\* Our best wishes to Henny McDowell who recently had a pacemaker procedure. Henny is at home and would be happy to receive cards.**

**\* A memorial service for Mitch and Betty Zavon, who recently passed away, will be held in the Sanctuary on Saturday, May 7 at 2 PM.**

**\* Tribute from Peggy March to express her gratitude to Shirley Foss and Sue Moreland for their warm welcome when she was new to UUCS.**

**\* Kathy Laenhue, a church friend, facilitates a website that provides brain games to enhance your memory.** Visit the website at [www.wisernow.com](http://www.wisernow.com).

**\* Monthly newsletters from the Friendship Center and Sarasota Memorial Hospital** can be found in the Lexow Wing. Read for information of interest, plus you may also subscribe to the online issues.

**\* 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). News of our congregation can also be found at Caring in the Members Corner.

\* **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

### \* **Get Together Dinners**

**Now is the time to sign up for our Spring Get Together Dinners.** The dates are April 23, May 28, and June 25. 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 **March 27**.

Carole Malone, John Brackett, Alice Carden, and Jeanie Craig  
Get Together Dinners Committee

\* **The Directory of church members and friends** is now available at our website, [www.uusarasota.org](http://www.uusarasota.org). The latest list is dated February 16. You will find it easy to look up your friends' names and numbers. If you do not know the password to the Members Corner, please call the church office.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

\* **Bicycle Group Ride to Venice Beach on Tuesday, March 22.** Join our friendly group of recreational bicycle riders this month. We'll meet at 9:30 am at the south end of the Legacy Trail (Venice train station parking lot), ride to the beach, have an early lunch somewhere (to be decided), and then ride back to our cars. Perfect weather for a morning bike ride, before the summer heat arrives. For questions, contact Nancy Saum, 703-297-1749 or [nancy.saum@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.saum@gmail.com).

### \* **MARK THESE DATES, FreeThinkers Series - Fridays at 10 a.m.:**

April 1 Compassion & Choices, Winnie Downes

May 13 The Soul Traveler, A Field of Poetry, Kevin Mooney

June 3 Pending

Speakers and/or Topics Subject to Change

\* **Mountain Work Weekend and Easter Program: March 25 - 27.** Many hands make light work for the annual Mountain Work Weekend. There are projects for all skill levels and abilities. Have younger children who aren't able to participate in the work weekend? There will be an Easter program, offering traditional Easter activities and fun. Contact [www.TheMountainRLC.org](http://www.TheMountainRLC.org)

\* **The UU Vegetarian Lunch Group will meet at Sweet Tomatoes, 4994 S. Tamiami Trail, on Friday, April 1, at 1:00 p.m.** Non-vegetarians are welcome; however, we ask that everyone have a "vegetarian" lunch.

For further information, or to make reservations, please contact Jean Wieloch at [jeanw972@yahoo.com](mailto:jeanw972@yahoo.com) or via phone: 929-3845.

\* **The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice is holding a symposium on "Awakening the Dreamer," Saturday, April 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Featured will be video insights from inspiring philosophers, scientists, community leaders and more discussing "Where on Earth are we going? And what can we do about it?". Suggested donation is \$15 and a vegetarian lunch will be available for \$5. Call 727 432-9494 or email [PachamamaAlliance@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:PachamamaAlliance@tampabay.rr.com).

## **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.**

\* **Congratulations RE Kids** for collecting two large barrels of food and volunteering at All Faiths Food Bank. Thank you for helping to feed hungry people in your community. Job well done! The Social Justice Committee is again collecting food for Bethesda House on Sunday.

\* ***Making A Killing - Guns, Greed and the NRA***. This film will be shown in the church on Friday, March 25th at 2 p.m. Free admission. More information on the church home page.

\* **Join The Brady Campaign Bayfront Witness** for gun background checks on Thursdays from 4-5 p.m. at the Kissing Statue. Signs provided. Wear white. Bring a friend or make some new ones. For more information, contact Nancy or Dave Evans at [nadaevans@comcast.net](mailto:nadaevans@comcast.net).

\* **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 Fruit & Nut bars (\$1) and small chocolates (5/\$1). Great with a cup of Sunday morning coffee!

**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, MARCH 27**

### **UUCS Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota**

\* **9:00 and 11:00 a.m. "Honk If You Love Jesus," an Easter Sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

This will be an autobiographical sermon about my own journey as a born-and-raised American Unitarian Universalist to come to grips with Jesus.

\* **Music: 9:00 a.m. Mindy Simmons; 11:00 a.m. Choir, Don Bryn, piano**

**\* 10:05 Forum: "Nonviolent Communication"**

The Center for Nonviolent Communication (NVC) is a global organization that supports the learning and sharing of NVC, and helps people peacefully and effectively resolve conflicts in personal, organizational, and political settings. Presenter, Mercedes Frace, Communications Coordinator, CNVC; Moderator, Marie Keeney.

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

**\* 10:00 a.m. Title to be Announced, video sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

**\* Music: Ed Kinder, Keyboard; Claudia Holmes, Recorders**

**\* 10:00 a.m. Nursery and Childcare provided**

**\* 11:00 a.m. Food and Fellowship**

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