



April 17, 2016

WEEKLY CONTACT

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)
Established in 1952

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE FROM ROGER FRITTS

I need your help with my Mother's Day sermon. On May 8, the title is "Women We Admire." Every year Gallup asks who are the most admired women. However, I am interested in your opinion.

Who is a living woman you admire? Could you all send me e-mails rfritts@uusarasota.org and tell me the name of the living woman you most admire and why? She does not need to be someone famous; although, if she is not famous, the Why? part becomes more important. It is a highly subjective question, with the answers determined by your own needs and experiences. Your deadline for sending me names is May 1, giving me a week to write the sermon. You do not need to be a member to participate.

I may use your name and what you say in the sermon, so DO NOT send me anything that you prefer to keep secret.

SATURDAY EVENTS, APRIL 16

* **WOMEN'S GROUP:** All UU Women are invited to attend the next group meeting, **Saturday, April 16**, at 10 am, in the West Wing, for a brief business meeting and then discussion: Transitions in Our Lives. Feel free to bring a cup of coffee and perhaps a "dunking" goody to share! Mary Fran Raynault

* **Interweave Meeting:** Our monthly meeting will be held at June Brasgalla's on **Saturday, April 16** at 11:00 a.m. Pot luck lunch to follow. Discussion and results of research regarding welcoming LGBT persons in long-term care facilities will continue. Contact Wilda at 924-0706 for details.

SUNDAY EVENTS, APRIL 17

UUCS Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota

*** 10:30 a.m. "Is the Human Race Evolving to a Higher Consciousness?" sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

Ellen Cone was the highest bidder at our auction on my offer to pick a sermon topic. The sermon title reflects her interest in consciousness and human evolution. As a resource I will be using the writings of Ray Kurzweil and others.

This sermon will be presented via video at a later date at Lakewood Ranch.

*** Music: 10:30 a.m. Choir; Don Bryn, Piano**

*** 9:30 a.m. Forum: "Project 180: Why We're Needed" Florida's prisons currently house over 100,000 inmates. Over 30,000 return to our communities every year. More than 45% of those housed in the Florida state prison system are repeat offenders. Almost 40% of Florida's prisoners test at or below a fifth grade education level. Project 180, a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, is a reentry program for male prisoners in Florida. Our goal is to reduce the impact of repeat offenders upon public safety, public spending, Florida families and individual lives. We are modeled after a Congressionally-endorsed program which has for 40 years successfully assisted thousands of former offenders to reenter the community. Upon opening our Residential Program, we will feature a two year, highly structured, 24/7 clean and sober residential environment, marketable job skill training, paid apprenticeships, academic education, rehabilitation and safe, slow reintegration into the community. Presenter, Barbara Richards, Executive Director, Project 180; Moderator, Marie Keeney.**

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

*** 10:00 a.m. "Honk If You Love Jesus"**

A Unitarian Approach to Jesus - Video sermon by Roger Fritts

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

*** Music: Barb Hewitt, Vocal Soloist; Dick Konicek-Moran, Keyboard**

*** 10:00 a.m. In-Service Childcare provided**

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

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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)

Nursery: Loving care for infants and toddlers is available during the 10:30 a.m. service.

RE Classes: A religious education program is available for children & youth during the 10:30 a.m. service.

*** Campfire Night is Saturday, April 16th**, starting at 6:00 pm. Join us by the east parking lot for a potluck dinner, fun and friendship around the campfire. Bring a dish to share. Drinks and s'mores are provided. All ages welcome!

*** Tapestry of Faith, Sunday April 17th** - Children will be in their age groups classes for Tapestry of Faith programs. Pk- 1st graders are using curriculum from "Wonderful Welcome" and the 2-5th graders are continuing on with "Signs of Our Faith." Youth will be involved planning for the pancake brunch.

*** Tickets for the annual RE Pancake Brunch to be held on April 24th** are on sale now. Show your support for the social justice work of the Religious Education children & youth and enjoy a delicious brunch with the congregation. All proceeds from this event will be donated to Shelter Box, an international charity that provides emergency shelter and vital supplies to communities around the world overwhelmed by disaster and humanitarian crisis.

OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS

*** This Sunday, April 17th -- The Arts Council is pleased to host a reception at 11:30 a.m.**, immediately following the Sunday service, for artists Genevieve Perkins and Maggie Nevens. Their oil and watercolor paintings are on exhibit in the Lexow Wing Gallery. Please stop in, meet the artists, and take some time to enjoy their artwork.

*** Nine Seats Left!! See Sarasota and More** will end the season with great Southern soul food and toe tapping, hand clapping gospel music at the Blue Rooster's Sunday Gospel Brunch on **Sunday, April 24**. We were able to expand our reservations to 40 seats for the 1:15 seating at the Blue Rooster, 1525 4th Street, in the Rosemary District. The Brunch consists of Biscuits and Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Bacon, Cheese Grits, Buttermilk Waffles, Fresh Fruit, Garden Salad,

Fried Chicken, Catfish, Brunswick Stew, Collard Greens, Macaroni and Cheese, Fried Green Tomatoes, Sweet Potato Home Fries, Chocolate Cake and Lemon Cake. The chef will also provide a vegan dish for those who would prefer that.

The total cost for the event is \$31.25 which includes the buffet, non-alcoholic beverages, tax, tip, and the gospel music. Our seating is at 1:15 and the music performance is over at 2:30.

Registration and payment will take place on Sunday before and after the 10:30 service.

ADULT PROGRAMS INFORMATION

* Save the date for the next **Bicycle Ride and lunch, Monday, April 25, 9:30** at Myakka River State Park. Questions? Contact Nancy Saum. 703-297-1749 or nancy.saum@gmail.com

* **Great Joy comes from sharing and helping.** Today we need you to sign up to share your talents with other UU members. **Adult Programs** is forming the "Summer Session" and we invite you to lead a class in your area of interest or expertise. Please get your inspiration for a class from the present listings of classes on the bulletin board or on the UUSarasota.org web site. Questions? Contact DeeAnnaDowdle@gmail.com or 350-3571.

CARING

* **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 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. 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

* **If a class or activity is being cancelled or rescheduled**, please inform the office so our church Calendar can be kept up to date. Thank you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

* **The UUCS Board of Trustees will be holding its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 19, 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.

* **MARK THIS DATE for the next FreeThinkers Presentation**

Friday, May 13, 10 a.m. Subject: *The Soul Traveler*, A Field of Poetry, Kevin Mooney

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 or stop by the Social Justice table on Sunday.

* **New! Local Farms Buyers Guide** is on the home page of the church website. Thank you Dave Lyons, member of our Climate Justice Sustainability Task Force.

* **Democracy Awakening** was endorsed by the Social Justice committee on Tuesday. Marching and advocating in Washington DC this week, this group supports political and voting rights of everyday Americans. The group is endorsed by the UUA and UU Social Justice.

* **UN Women, Gulf Coast Chapter** also received the SJ committee's endorsement Tuesday for the chapter's local advocacy effort to identify and correct discrimination against women in local statutes.

* **Despite stories in the media, Bethesda House** still welcomes and needs food donations for its pantry. If its pantry operation changes, we'll let you know. Most appreciated are single serving cans (pork-and-beans, ravioli), travel size toiletries, paper products (TP and towels).

* **All Faiths Summer Food Program** received our January Share-the-Plate gift of \$2,548. We learned last week that our gift, and others, will be **matched by a local foundation**. Thank you again, members and friends, for your generosity to others in our community.

* **New Members and Friends, Have You Signed** the state petition to expand solar energy? Available at the social justice table. Any Florida voter may sign the petition.

* **Want to Share Your Time and Talent?** Looking for groups that need you? Pick up a flyer at the SJ table.

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. For Fair Trade special orders, contact Suzie Brucklacher at justice@uusarasota.org, subject line Fair Trade Special Order.

SUNDAY EVENTS, APRIL 24

UUCS Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota

* **10:30 a.m. "A Reflection on a Walk," sermon by Roger Fritts**

One day this spring I left Sarasota and drove east to Myakka River State Park. I pulled my car off the road and went for a walk in the wilderness, for a few hours leaving behind civilization.

This sermon will be presented via video at a later date at Lakewood Ranch.

* **Music: 10:30 a.m. Bonnie Caplan, Harp; Don Bryn, Piano**

* **9:30 am Forum: "What Should Be the Role of the U.S. Military in Confronting ISIS?"** The challenge presented by the Islamic State is frustrating. But smart policy requires clear-headed analysis of the available data, as well as deference to the lessons of recent history. Should the U.S. be more aggressive or less aggressive? Presenter, John Feagan, Florida Veterans for Common Sense; Moderator, Marie Keeney.

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

* **10:00 a.m. "Climateers: A Report from the Field,"** How to Be a Good Person on Earth in Light of Climate Change, Video messages by Lea Hall, Diane Cirksena and friends

Climateer - noun: (1) a person who learns about, minimizes, mitigates, and adapts to climate change; (2) a person who seeks moral ground for living with climate change, both individually and collectively. Climateers gathered at our church this winter for the second consecutive year to

support one another in responding to climate change. Two groups met weekly, one exploring the moral challenge of climate change, one focusing on the sixth extinction of species. Members of these groups share brief reports from their personal paths, with revelations and resolutions

* **Music: Ed Kinder, Keyboard**

* **10:00 a.m. In-Service Childcare provided**

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

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