



May 1, 2016

WEEKLY CONTACT

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE - REV. ROGER FRITTS

Last week I thought I had the common cold, but others referred me to a web site "Flu or Cold? Know the Differences." I read the site and now I know I had the flu. This week I am better, but after the news of the musician Prince's death, I am taking it slow and drinking plenty of fluids. Thank you, Katie Culbert, for taking my place last Sunday.

I hope you are planning to attend Katie's ordination Sunday, May 22 at 4:00 P.M. An ordination is a ritual that confers on an individual the right and power to be a minister. Because congregational polity governs our church, (as it does all Unitarian Universalist congregations), certain powers, such as the ordaining of ministers, are reserved only for the congregation. Last January this congregation voted to ordain Katie, who served us as a student minister for two years.

Ordination is a celebration not just of one person's abilities, but of the power, sovereignty and tradition of the congregation as well. If you can only spend one hour at church May 22, skip Sunday morning and come to the ordination in the afternoon. We will have excellent guest speakers, great music and good food.

SUNDAY EVENTS, MAY 1

UUCS Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota

*** 10:30 a.m. "Spirituality and the Beatles," by Elaine Silver**

"Rev. Faerie" Elaine Silver is a seasoned and consummate musician. She is an accomplished singer, songwriter, touring and recording artist with 19 CDs to date and counting.

She is well-known in her original home state as "The Folk Music Queen of New Jersey," and since moving to Florida in 2000, she has developed her passion of metaphysics into a Musical Ministry. She often fills in for ministers on Sunday mornings at Unity Churches, Centers for Spiritual Living, Unitarian Centers and other progressive churches as she teaches and shares Truth Principles Through Song.

Elaine Silver utilizes love, humor and a sprinkling of magic to convey musical messages that brings the listeners to an exalted and receptive place of the heart and mind. She has extensive training in the Science of Mind principles and has completed all course work for Practitioner from Centers for Spiritual Living. She is also an ordained Priestess in the Temple of Isis in Geyserville, California, a Certified Passion Test Facilitator and an award-winning performer (Garden State Music Award for Outstanding Folk Performer).

Most recently, and due to a life-long passion, Elaine has become a Certified Beatleologist and will be sharing spiritual interpretations of Beatles music.

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

*** 9:30 am Forum: "Begin the Conversation"**

What is the best way to assist people in figuring out what they want at the end of life, and letting family and physicians know their wishes before those decisions are faced? Presenter, Suzanne Barksdale, Community Relations Representative, Tidewell Hospice; Moderator, Fredric Sirasky.

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

*** 10:00 a.m. Meditations of a "Quaker-tarian": A Look at Sister Religions Seeking Similar Ends Through Different Means, Sermon by Kathleen Konicek-Moran**

Kathleen Konicek-Moran, a Quaker of 35 years, has recently joined the Unitarian Universalists of Lakewood Ranch. In this presentation, she will look at the history and guiding principles of the two religions to see how they have gone about getting to some of their shared goals - justice, equality and peace for the world.

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

*** 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.

*** Sunday, May 1st - Tapestry of Faith classes for all age groups.** We will also be planning for our RE Sunday presentation on **May 15th**. Everyone will have a part to play in this special presentation to the congregation.

*** The RE Pancake Brunch was a great success!** Thank you to the congregation for supporting us and providing the funds for a Shelter Box. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and made this event happen. A special thank you to Jim Redifer for overseeing and coordinating the brunch.

*** SAVE THE DATES :** Mothers Day/Flower Communion - **May 8th**

RE Sunday - **May 15th**

Lido Beach Party - **May 23rd**

ADULT PROGRAMS INFORMATION

* Don't sweat the Summer Heat. Stay cool and enjoy friends while you are learning something new in our "**Summer Session of Adult Programs.**" You will be able to sign up Sundays, May 1st and 8th in the courtyard or by contacting "class facilitator" or DeeAnnaDowdle@gmail.com 350-3571. Also, see the listing of classes and their descriptions on the UU Bulletin Board and on the UUSarasota.org web site under the Adult Programs tab. (<http://www.uucarasota.com/adult-programs.html>) Facilitators are encouraged to come to the Adult Programs Table in the Courtyard and encourage people to sign up for your class.

* **Writing Your Life Story Classes** now have openings for one or two new members. One class, led by June Brasgalla, meets four Mondays a month at 1 p.m. in the West Wing. Another class, led by John Yoder and Kathy Brackett, meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 1:30, starting May 3rd. They meet in the library. Members are expected to write a two-page story each week and read it to the class. Please contact June at 379-6071 or John at 554-4783.

CARING

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

* **One of our members who lives south of the Sarasota Square mall on Rita Street would like a ride on Sundays.** Please contact me at DeanaWidder@gmail.com or 377-9028.

* **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.uucarasota.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

* **Bishop Spong, Dr. Ray revisited:** If you missed the special seminars by our distinguished guests in February, recordings and video links are now available on our home page and at <http://www.uucarasota.com/bishopspong-revdrray.html>.

* **Did you miss a Sunday sermon or want to hear it again?** Go to our website, www.uusarasota.org, click on Sunday Morning, and click on Sermon Archive. Some Readings are also available.

* **Have you read our Annual Report?** Look under church documents in the Members Corner on our website. Interesting information is available about the history of our church. Reports of committees for 2015 are also listed. Get to know your church.

UPCOMING EVENTS

* **The UU Vegetarian Lunch Group will meet at the BANGKOK RESTAURANT, 4791 Swift Rd., on Friday, May 6, at 1:00 pm.** 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 or call 929-3845. (Please note restaurant change from the one listed in the previous *Contact*.)

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

* **UWomenspirit Spring Retreat - May 11-15**

UWomenspirit is a non-profit, volunteer-run organization that has hosted all-women retreats since 1987. The retreats emphasize and celebrate the Divine Feminine in her many forms. The next retreat will be held on May 11-15 at The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands, NC. The theme for this event is *We Walk With HER, as One* and will emphasize our connection to Mother Earth. Deadline for registering is **May 11**. For more information about UWomenspirit, please visit their website, www.uuwomenspirit.org.

* **A series of highly rated, light-hearted movies** will be offered this summer on the 2nd Friday of each month at 7 p.m. They begin on **May 13** with *The World's Fastest Indian*, the story of an older man who wants to set a new speed record on his Indian motorcycle. You don't have to have an interest in motorcycles to love this film!

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

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

* **UUCS Newcomers' Get-together - Siesta Beach - May 15th**

Let's plan our next Newcomers' meeting at Siesta Beach, on Sunday, May 15, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. We can expect the Siesta Beach drum circle to take place on the beach from about 6:00 p.m. to sunset. Please bring a light dinner and something to share.

Ted and Nancy Funk plan to stake out one or two of the small pavilions (#1 thru #4) at the north end of the beach. As of April 18th, nearby rentable pavilions and beach space had not been reserved for this time.

If you need help that evening or directions, please call Nancy on [312 310-3865](tel:312-310-3865). All 2016 new members and friends are welcome. See you there. Agnes Schipper and Nancy Funk. RSVP by email Sfeltus@comcast.net or phone Nancy Funk [312 310-3865](tel:312-310-3865).

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.

* **March on Wendy's Sunday 2 p.m.** Last month the Coalition of Immokalee Workers launched a national boycott of Wendy's because the company rejected the Fair Food Program and shifted their tomato purchases to Mexico where workers confront child labor, sexual harassment and slavery. Join the Sarasota protest on Sunday, May 1st at 2 p.m. at Wendy's, 1601 S. Tamiami Trail.

* **Free Wallet Card at SJ Table.** Do you wonder what produce is most important to buy organic and what is safest when grown conventionally? The Environmental Working Group (www.ewg.org) tests produce for residual chemicals and has just released the 2016 Dirty Dozen and Clean 15. Pick up your 2-sided wallet card at the social justice table. Never leave home (to grocery shop) without it.

* **Meals on Wheels Drivers** are needed at the 421 North Lime Avenue, Sarasota location. Shifts are available Monday through Saturday 10-11 a.m. Please call Judy Johnston at 366-6693 for more information.

* **Bethesda House** welcomes our Sunday donations for its pantry. Most appreciated are single serving cans (pork-and-beans, ravioli), travel size toiletries, paper products (toilet paper and towels). Look for the donation bin outside the sanctuary.

* **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.

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, MAY 8

UUCS Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota

* **10:30 a.m. "Women We Admire," sermon by Roger Fritts**

Every year Gallup asks who the most admired women are. In 2015 Michelle Obama was fourth, Oprah Winfrey was third, Malala Yousafzai was second, and Hillary Clinton was first.

Whom would you rank as the women you most admire? Would it be a politician? Would it be a writer? It is a highly subjective question, with the answers determined by our own needs and experiences.

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

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

* **9:30 am Forum: "Whole Foods and Wawa: Developments Will Affect Existing Wetlands"**

How will commercial development at University and Honore affect the existing wetlands? Is there any way to stop it? Presenter, Andy Mele, Suncoast Waterkeeper and Sierra Club Conservation Chair for Sarasota County; Moderator, Linda Jones.

The mission of the non-profit Suncoast Waterkeeper is to protect and restore the Florida Suncoast's waterways through enforcement, fieldwork, advocacy, and environmental education for the benefit of the communities that rely upon these precious coastal resources. The Manatee-Sarasota Group of Sierra Club, in existence for close to 30 years, is involved in a wide range of issues focused on protecting our beautiful environment, natural habitats, wildlife and water.

Andy Mele is former Executive Director of a major Hudson River environmental group that was instrumental in forcing General Electric to remove 300,000 pounds of toxic PCBs from the Hudson. He is author of "Polluting for Pleasure," the book that rendered the old two-stroke outboard motor all but extinct, keeping millions of gallons of oil and gasoline from American waterways every year. Andy has an MS in environmental science, Bard College.

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

* **10:00 a.m. "Is the Human Race Evolving to a Higher Consciousness?" video sermon by 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.

* **Music: Mindy Simmons, guitar, vocals and 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.