



May 6, 2016

# **WEEKLY CONTACT**

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

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## **MINISTER'S MESSAGE - REV. ROGER FRITTS**

On Sunday, May 8, bring a flower to church. As you enter the sanctuary, place your flower in a basket. As you leave the sanctuary, take a different flower. If you forget to bring a flower, I will have extras.

The Rev. Norbert Capek, Unitarian Minister in Prague, created and held the first flower ceremony June 4, 1923. He wanted a ritual that would be inclusive of the three thousand atheists, agnostics, theists, Christians and Humanists in his congregation. The ceremony took on special meaning in the 1940s after Rev. Capek became a martyr. He liked to listen to the BBC so the congregation gave him a radio as a gift. The Nazis invaded and listening to the BBC became a capital offense. Rev. Capek's radio was discovered and he was sent to Dachau. He was killed in the fall of 1942.

Today the flower ceremony is a celebration of life held in many Unitarian Universalist Churches in the spring. I include it as part of Mother's Day because flowers are easy to find on Mother's Day weekend.

## **SATURDAY EVENT, MAY 7**

\* **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.**

## **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**

At our annual auction, Ellen Cone was the highest bidder 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.

**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.

**\* Mother's Day and Flower Communion Sunday, May 8th** - We'll be joining the congregation in the Sanctuary for a "Story for All Ages." Together, we'll hear the story behind the unique UU celebration of the Flower Communion. Everyone is encouraged to bring a flower to exchange. After our time in Service, the children & youth will be practicing for RE Sunday (May 15th) and creating special gifts for Mother's Day.

\* **RE Sunday, May 15th** - This is a celebration service in the Sanctuary for our RE program and the work the children have accomplished over the program year. We will also be recognizing and thanking the teachers, child care helpers and volunteers who make our RE program special.

\* **Lido Beach Picnic is Sunday, May 22nd.** We're skipping church to celebrate the end of our program year with a picnic! Join us as we take time to relax and play in the sun. More details on this event will be coming soon.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

**Please welcome our new members: Carol Collins and Holly and Ed Jamison, who joined the church last week.**

## **OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS**

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

\* **Volunteer Opportunity!** FreeThinkers Speakers Series for 2016 will be closing out with a very different, fun-filled event that will begin in the Memorial Garden with a "Field of Poetry." Guides and greeters are needed to make this **May 13th** event run smoothly. Contact Carole Martin at: [freethinkersuucs@gmail.com](mailto:freethinkersuucs@gmail.com) or at 954-354-7441.

## **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 on Sunday, May 8th in the courtyard or by contacting "class facilitator" or [DeeAnnaDowdle@gmail.com](mailto: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.uucsarasota.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 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 Tribute from Joyce Schneider to remember Mitch and Betty Zavon and the many contributions they made to our church over the years.**

\* **If you live in Sarasota County go to the SCgov.net website and sign up for Code Red,** a notification to your phone/email regarding severe weather or other catastrophic events.

\* **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*.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

\* **UWomenspirit Spring Retreat - May 11-15** Deadline for registering is **May 11**. For more information about UWomenspirit, please visit their website, [www.uuwomenspirit.org](http://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!

\* **Interweave Meeting:** Our monthly meeting will be held at Bill Geller's home on **Saturday, May 14** 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.

### \* **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 want directions, please call Nancy on 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](mailto:Sfeltus@comcast.net) or phone Nancy Funk 312 310-3865.

\* **WOMEN'S GROUP:** All UU women are welcome to attend our meetings the 3rd Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in the West Wing. **May 21:** continuing discussion about women in transition and housing opportunities. **June 18:** "Read any good books lately?" Bring your list of good reads and/or books you'd like to pass on to others. Come for good conversation - bring your own beverages and maybe a goodie to share.

## **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.**

\* **Summer Reading Volunteers Needed**, June 13-July 31 at Brentwood, Gulfgate and Lamarque elementary schools in Sarasota. Call 927-9000, ext 31500 for more information. Or stop by the Social Justice table.

\* **Free Wallet Card at SJ Table.** Do you know what produce is most important to buy organic and what is safe enough when grown conventionally? The Environmental Working Group ([www.ewg.org](http://www.ewg.org)) tests produce for residual chemicals and has 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.

\* **Looking for other volunteer opportunities?** Pick up a flyer at the SJ table.

\* **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](mailto:justice@uusarasota.org), subject line Fair Trade Special Order.

## **SUNDAY EVENTS, MAY 15**

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

#### **\* 10:30 a.m. Religious Education (RE) Sunday**

This is a celebration service in the Sanctuary for our RE program and the work the children have accomplished over the program year. We will also be recognizing and thanking the teachers, child care helpers and volunteers who make our RE program special.

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

**\* 9:30 am Forum: "2-Gen: The Two-Generation Approach To Reducing, Mitigating or Eliminating Multigenerational Poverty"** Can poverty be eliminated by addressing the needs of children and their parents - together at a local school at the end of a school day? Presenters, John Annis and Kirsten Russel of the Community Foundation of Sarasota County; Moderator, Fredric Sirasky.

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

#### **\* 10:00 a.m. "Love - A German American Perspective," video sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

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

Roger says, "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: 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.