



May 15, 2016

WEEKLY CONTACT

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE - REV. ROGER FRITTS

I will be in the Chicago area this weekend. It is not a vacation, though the region has many great museums, wonderful architecture and interesting restaurants. This is the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Unitarian Church of Evanston in 1891. To mark the occasion, they are inviting all their living former ministers back to lead a Sunday service. I served as the church's senior minister from 1985 to 1993.

In my imagination I will travel in time as well as space. When I speak Sunday in Evanston, I will be thirty-four years old again. I will speak about their wonderful music program, about the decision in 1986 to call an openly gay man to serve as minister of religious education, about the visits to Evanston from people like Studs Terkel, Norman Cousins and Julian Bond, about bringing the AIDS quilt to that church in 1991 and about building a \$700,000 addition to the church. Then I will get on a plane, fly back to Sarasota, and return to 2016.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY EVENTS

* **Comedy Tonight: This evening, Friday, May 13**, at 7 pm in the Sanctuary we will be continuing our 5-star movie series with *The World's Fastest Indian*, the story of an elderly man who wants to set a new speed record on his Indian motorcycle. More details on the UU website. Bring a friend and enjoy this heart-warming 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.

SUNDAY EVENTS, MAY 15

UUCS Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota

* **10:30 a.m. "Who Then Am I?" 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. "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.

* **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.

* **RE Sunday, May 15th** - Celebrate our RE Program this Sunday in the Sanctuary. Our children and youth will share with the congregation the work they have accomplished over the program year. Please arrive early (10:00 a.m.) so the children can have a quick practice before Service.

* **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. We'll meet by the picnic tables at 10:30 am. There is a playground, beach and grills. Bring your picnic lunch, beach chairs and beach toys. Charlotte & Sophia will be joining us to help with the younger children.

OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS

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

Our next Newcomers' meeting will be 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. 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 or phone Nancy Funk at 312 310-3865.

CARING

* **Thanks from Dorothy Watson to the many UU Members and devoted UU Friends** for the wonderful spirit of life that made her heart sing all during overpowering chemotherapy treatment. The beautiful cards, caring, sharing, delicious meals, and delightful visits during this on-going celebration of my recovery have been greatly appreciated.

* **The Endowment fund has received a generous bequest from the estate of Mitch and Betty Zavon.** We appreciate that Mitch and Betty included us in their estate plans as the bequest will help support and promote the operation and values of the UUCS both in the present and far into the future.

* **Jane Hopkins is at Sarasota Point Rehabilitation on Courtland Street.** Visits would be appreciated.

* **Are you a Caregiver looking for a support group?** Contact the Friendship Center at 955-2122 for more information.

* **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 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

* UU GARDEN DIET

Our bromeliad collection needs to go on a diet. Every bromeliad we plant gives us at least two pups (baby bromeliads) so we can now share our bounty with you. If you would like some bromeliads for your garden, come to

the UU Church any Tuesday morning between 9:30 and 11:00. We'll share our extra bromeliad pups with you. *UU Garden Crew*

UPCOMING EVENTS

* **The UUCS Board of Trustees will be holding its monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 17, 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.

* **On Sunday, May 22 at 4 p.m., this church will be ordaining Katie Culbert,** who served us as a student minister for two years. The ordination ceremony is a ritual that confers on an individual the right and power to be a minister. Ordination is a celebration not just of one person's abilities, but of the power, sovereignty and tradition of the congregation as well. There will be excellent guest speakers, great music and good food.

* **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. Contact Mary Fran Raynault.

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.

* **Special thanks to 64 members** who volunteered with the Backpack program during the school year and packed weekend food for 'food insecure' families. Thank you, Sara and Don Slate, for coordinating the effort again this year.

* **We Are Sponsoring Two Shelter Boxes!** Thanks to the RE kids' pancake breakfast on April 24th and share-the-plate contributions that day, we raised over \$2,000 for ShelterBox. The RE kids will track the two boxes that we are sponsoring and report when they are deployed. Thank you RE parents and everyone who contributed!

* **Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW)** is launching a national day of prayer on Monday, May 23 for farm workers and to ask Wendy's to support *fair food*. Wendy's has refused to join the 'penny-a-pound' campaign to improve worker wages and working conditions. Pick up a flyer at the social justice table to help with letters or phone calls. Our share-the-plate on May 22 will support CIW.

* **Bethesda House** thanked us for 2,000-lbs. of food contributed during 2015. Every Sunday we collect single serving cans (pork-and-beans, ravioli), travel size toiletries and paper products (TP and towels). Look for the donation bin outside the sanctuary.

* **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) 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.

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

* **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.

* **Members and Friends, Have You Signed** the state petition to expand solar energy? Have you signed the petition to ban fracking in Florida? (Yes, fracking in Florida.) Both are available at the social justice table for Florida registered voters.

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 22

UUCS Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota

* **10:30 a.m. "Eating Tortilla Chips with Cesar Chavez and Coretta Scott King"**

The morning before we ordain Katie Culbert into the Unitarian Universalist Ministry later the same day, the sermon will be a reflection on communion.

* **10:30 a.m. Music: Betsy Hudson Traba, flute; Don Bryn, piano**

* **9:30 am Forum: "Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women" (CEDAW)**
CEDAW is a United Nations treaty that most nations have signed, but not Iran, Somalia, and ... the United States! There are now local initiatives to push forward the ideas of the treaty, including in Sarasota. Recently our own UU Social Justice Committee approved endorsing CEDAW. Presenter, Elizabeth Scott Osborne, Moderator, Marie Keeney.

Elizabeth Scott Osborne is a lawyer, teacher, and international development professional. She has lived in seven countries and raised two daughters. She works to advocate for women's and children's rights wherever possible, and she is a proud returned Peace Corps Volunteer. She is on the board of the Gulf Coast Chapter of UN Women-USNC, the group promoting CEDAW locally.

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

*** 10:00 a.m. "Awesome," sermon by Rev. Sara Zimmerman**

We are looking at 21st Century science validating 18th Century transcendentalists' view of nature. Rev. Dr. Sara E. Zimmerman retired in the fall of 2013 as the settled minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa. She has had many years' experience as a lecturer in comparative literature.

*** 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.