



May 29, 2016

WEEKLY CONTACT

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE - REV. ROGER FRITTS

Here is a letter I sent this week to Mr. Nelson Peltz, The Wendy's Company, One Dave Thomas Blvd., Dublin, OH 43017:

Dear Mr. Peltz, I love the Apple Pecan Chicken Salad. I often get it for lunch at the franchise on North Beneva Road in Sarasota. However, I also love the good people who are part of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers. They have launched a national boycott of Wendy's in response to the fast food company's decision to reject the Fair Food Program, a worker-designed, proven human rights program that is preventing violence, wage theft, sexual assault, and slavery in the Florida tomato industry and beyond. They tell me that you have moved your tomato purchases from Florida to a supplier in Mexico where slavery was uncovered in 2013. I am joining the boycott. I encourage you to change your policies so I can again enjoy your excellent Apple Pecan Chicken Salad.

Sincerely,
Roger Fritts

SUNDAY EVENTS, MAY 29

UUCS Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota

*** 10:30 a.m. "Faith and Feminism," Rev. Katie Culbert**

The Prophetic Sisterhood, liberal women ministers of the late 18th and early 19th century, paved the way for professional female leadership in the church while contributing greatly to the re-shaping of Unitarian theology & practice. They overcame a system of oppression designed to keep them "in their place" as minister's wives, deaconesses, lay leaders, and missionaries but not paid ordained ministers.

On the cusp of my May 22nd ordination in Sarasota, I wonder what the current state of ordained women in the church is, both liberal and conservative. As we approach the election of a new Unitarian Universalist Association President, what is the significance of both candidates being female? Do we, women and girls, really, as Beyonce says, "run the world"?

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

* **9:30 am Forum: "Our Brain Reward System and Corporate Manipulation - Example of Online Gambling."** Online and "Fantasy Betting" is rapidly growing both in the United States and internationally. An exploration of this growing business, how it is collaborating with Sports Teams, and how governments are benefiting. Also, a discussion of our brain "reward system" and how corporations manipulate our behaviors for their profit; and on whether entertainment for the masses that harms a minority can be regulated. Presenter, Dale Anderson; Moderator, John Stinespring.

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

May 29 is the last UUs of LWR Service until Sept. 11, 2016

* **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 states, "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: Tony Horowitz and Claudia Holmes, Recorders; 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.

* **Sunday, May 29th** (Memorial Day Weekend) - No RE Classes. Childcare will be available for children 10 and under.

* **RE Summer Program starts on June 5th.** Join us for fun this summer as we explore myths, legends and tales. There will be lots of fun activities including art projects, science experiments, gardening & cooking lessons. Anyone want to make an erupting volcano?

CARING

* **Phillip Roseberry died suddenly on May 23.** A memorial service will be held in the Sanctuary on Thursday, June 9 at 2 p.m. Phillip is survived by his children and his partner, Jennifer Meinert.

* **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

* **Are you a new member?** Would you like to get to know more people in our church? We are looking for (a) people to serve cookies and punch on Sunday mornings, perhaps once a month and (b) a person to take over the job of scheduling said volunteers. **This is a great way to get to know lots of people and make new friends!** Contact: June Brasgalla: juneb22@comcast.net.

If you're a member with a birthday this week that is not listed here, please inform the office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

* **Cinema Conversations** - Our next meeting will take place on **Wednesday, June 1** at 7 P.M. in the Lexow Wing. The movie of the evening will be "Money Monster" starring George Clooney and Julia Roberts. View the film on your own and join us for a "captivating" discussion.

* **The UU Vegetarian Lunch Group will meet at Two Senioritas**, 1355 Main Street, on **Friday, June 3**, 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 via phone: 929-3845.

* **Summer Comedies. Friday, June 10, 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary.** *Short Time* is about a policeman who thinks he is going to die and tries to get killed on the job for the insurance money. Nothing goes right! In the process he realizes what is really important in his life.

* **Theatre Games/Beginning Improvisations**

Let out your "inner child"! That part of you is eager to run out and play once again. Laughter and Creativity are good medicines. You'll receive many doses of them in the theatre games/beginning improvisation classes held on **four Wednesdays in July** from 1:00 - 3:00. The classes will meet in the West Wing of the Church.

Sue Cohen trained for a year at Player's Workshop in Chicago and has a certificate in Beginning Improvisation. She has taught this non-threatening course to "children of all ages."

The fee is \$20 per person for the four sessions. Five dollars of this fee is for the use of the Church facilities. A minimum of 8 people is necessary for the course activities to work well.

Call Sue at 952-3466 to sign up and/or get more information.

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 each month (except July), join the mailing list at justice@uucarasota.org or stop by the Social Justice table on Sunday.

* **Black Lives Matter** and the social justice committee felt that it was time we said so with a banner in front of the church. It has been up now for a few days, then will be displayed periodically. Our friends at Newtown Nation and the local Black Lives Matter Chapter applaud this public support of racial fairness.

* **Wear Orange on Thursday, June 2nd** on the second annual Gun Violence Awareness Day sponsored by Sandy Hook Promise, Newtown Action Alliance, Moms Demand Action For Gun Sense in America and others. Mark your fashion calendar.

* **Ban Fracking in Florida** Our state representatives approved hydraulic fracturing in February 2016. Sign the petition on the social justice table to build public awareness and keep pressure on Tallahassee.

* **Produce Shopping Guide at SJ Table.** Do you know which produce is important to buy organic and which is safe enough when grown conventionally? The Environmental Working Group (www.ewg.org) tests for residual chemicals on the food we eat. It recently released the 2016 Dirty Dozen and Clean 15. Pick up your 2-sided wallet card at the social justice table. Carry it when you shop. Take an extra for a friend.

* **Looking for volunteer opportunities?** Several local nonprofits are looking for readers, drivers, food pantry helpers and more . . . flyers on the SJ table. Also, All Faiths Food Bank needs mobile pantry volunteers and summer backpackers: information at www.allfaithsfoodbank.org/volunteer.

* **Vote on Solar Energy Amendments:** "Yes in August" and "NO in November." Get more information at the social justice 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, JUNE 5

UUCS Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota

*** 10:30 a.m. "The Summer Vacation as a Religious Experience," sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

Those of us who are familiar with Max Weber's 1905 book "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism" know that the roots of our religion emphasize hard work. Vacations were not encouraged. However, with the invention of church summer camps, American Protestants, including Unitarians and Universalists, found a way around the protestant work ethic.

*** 10:30 a.m. Music: Daniel Solowey, clarinet; Don Bryn, piano**

*** 9:30 a.m. Forum: "Selah Freedom: Bringing Light into the Darkness of Sex Trafficking."** An update on the progress being made to eliminate sex trafficking, especially in Sarasota County. Selah Freedom provides four key programs: Awareness, Prevention, Outreach and Residential. Presenter, Vanessa Morris, Director of Awareness, Selah Freedom; Moderator, Louise Stinespring

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

There will be no service of the UUs of LWR until Sept. 11, 2016.