



June 12, 2016

WEEKLY CONTACT

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

3975 Fruitville Road, Sarasota FL 34232

(941) 371-4974

Fax (941) 377-4897

www.uusarasota.org

MINISTER'S MESSAGE - REV. ROGER FRITTS

I often say, "Unitarians use reason to argue that Jesus was a great moral leader, but not God. When someone makes a religious claim, we ask what is the evidence? Is the claim logical?" I back up this statement by reviewing the history of Unitarianism, pointing out that our founders, such as Miguel Servetus and Joseph Priestly, were also doctors or scientists.

Rev. Peter Morales, President of the UUA, writes in the current association magazine: "We have a unique opportunity to bring faiths together and to lead a multifaith movement." Peter says, "Religious liberals from all traditions share not only common values, but also a common cosmology. We believe what science tells us about the age of our universe and evolution." I hope this is the case, but I am not sure. I find that other liberal religions still say at some point it is necessary to let go of a desire for evidence, to let go of the scientific method, and trust in faith.

The tradition of Unitarianism is not to make this leap of faith. In the application of reason, we have excelled. It is our distinctive strength in religion. It is our major contribution to the world.

FRIDAY EVENT, JUNE 10

* **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.

SUNDAY EVENTS, JUNE 12

UUCS Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota

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

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

* **9:30 a.m. Forum: "Democracy Awakening 2016"**

Thousands gathered in April in Washington DC to demand passage of legislation to: (i) restore voting discrimination protections struck down by the Supreme Court's Holder decision, (ii) modernize voter registration and prevent deceptive practices that keep people from the ballot box, (iii) overturn Citizens United and allow elected representatives to set commonsense limits on money in elections, and (iv) encourage and amplify small contributions from everyday Americans. Presenter, Rhana Bazzini; Moderator, DeeAnna Dowdle.

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.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE)

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

* **RE Summer Program** is available for children during the 10:30 a.m. Service.

* **Join us on Sunday June 12th for "Visitors Day."** We'll meet Babushka, a therapy dog, a family member of our UUCS church members Roberta and Doreen. We'll have a chance to learn what type of therapy work Babushka does and read about other therapy animals. For more information on our Summer Program schedule check the RE calendar on the church's website.

* **Youth Group** - While we're not having a formal youth group on Sunday mornings during the summer, youth are invited to attend the service or volunteer in the RE program (during the service hours). Not all volunteer jobs are working with the children's program (or even on Sundays). Please contact Susan Cook-Hallock if you are interested in volunteering.

* **Game Night is Saturday, June 18th, at 5 p.m.** Join us as we play our favorite board games and learn some new ones. All ages are invited. Bring your favorite game! Potluck dinner will be served. Please bring a dish to share.

NEW MEMBERS

* **Please welcome our new members who joined the church last Sunday:**

Shelley and Irv Frankel

Joan Kobata

Charles M. Schneeberger

Penelope Upton

OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS

* **This Sunday, June 12, is Second Sunday Potluck.** Please bring food to serve 8 people: salads, sandwiches, desserts. Vegetarian and vegan dishes are encouraged. All are welcome.

CARING

* **We learned of the death of long-time member Judy Fechheimer.** A private memorial service will be held at a later date.

* **FISH of Sarasota provides transportation for medical appointments** in Sarasota only. Unfortunately, they cannot accommodate wheelchairs. Appointments must be made 48 hours ahead of time. There is no charge. Donations requested. FISH is also looking for volunteer drivers. Call 953-5838 for more information.

* **Would you like to volunteer for the Caring committee?** Please contact DeanaWidder@gmail.com.

* **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*.

UPCOMING EVENTS

* **The UUCS Board of Trustees** will be holding its monthly meeting on Tuesday, **June 14**, 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.

* **UU WOMEN'S GROUP:** The next meeting is Saturday, **June 18**, at 10 am in the West Wing. Bring along books you've enjoyed and now would like to give away and/or a list of good books you think others might want to read. Bring your coffee, tea, or water and join in the discussion! Contact Mary Fran Raynault with questions, maryfran.raynault@gmail.com.

* **GAME NIGHT - Saturday, June 18th**

West Wing

5:00-8:00 p.m.

Roll the dice, deal the cards, play the game! Everyone is invited to join us for an evening of fun games and fellowship. Have a favorite game, bring it along. Potluck dinner will be served. Please bring a dish to share.

* **Get Together Dinners**

Now is the time to sign up for our Summer Get Together Dinners. The dates are July 23, August 27, and September

24. It is a great way to get to know new friends at the church and/or reacquaint with old friends. The dinners, usually 6 to 12 people, are held in people's homes. The host provides the main dish and guests bring the sides, hors d'oeuvres, and dessert. Registration forms are available at the Get Together Dinner table in the courtyard or save paper and register online www.uusarasota.org. Deadline for registering is **June 26**.

Carole Malone, John Brackett, Alice Carden, and Jeanie Craig
Get Together Dinners Committee

* **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@uusarasota.org or stop by the Social Justice table on Sunday.

* **Next Social Justice Meeting Tuesday, June 14** at noon in the Lexow Wing. New members and friends welcome. Email justice@uusarasota.org for more information.

* **Our Church Is In Top 5% Nationally** for purchases of Equal Exchange Fair Trade items - among 8,000 faith-based organizations! Thank you, Suzie Brucklacher, for leading this economic justice project.

* **Bethesda House Pantry -- Every Sunday** we collect cans of (pork-and-beans, ravioli), travel size toiletries and paper products (TP and towels). Look for the donation bin outside the sanctuary.

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

* **Our Black Lives Matter Banner** was inaugurated May 29 with a group photo. Learn more about it on the church website.

* **Voter Information on Solar Energy Amendments:** "Yes in August" and "No in November." Details and wallet cards at the social justice table.

* **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.

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 19

* **10:30 a.m. "Macho America," sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

On Father's Day, the sermon will explore what it means to be male in America, and touch on chauvinism, sexism, and hypermasculinity.

* **10:30 a.m. Music: Hermann Berndt, Cello; Don Bryn, piano**

* **9:30 a.m. Forum: "Why Is Income and Wealth Inequality an Issue for a Presidential Campaign?"**

Are income and wealth inequality bad things that need to be fixed? Should it be a major issue on which we judge candidates? What would we ask them to do? Why? How? Presenter, John Stinespring; Moderator, Verna Safran.