



June 19, 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

Last Sunday morning at the start of the "Centering in Words," I said, "As those of us who checked the news this morning are aware, many people have been killed or injured in a violent attack in a night club in Orlando. Our hearts go out to all the people who are personally affected by this event."

A colleague posted similar words on Facebook and someone responded, "Time to stop the nice words and get serious about guns!" Seeing the wisdom in this, I wrote a letter.

"Dear Senator Rubio, I watched you in Orlando on television Sunday afternoon and I appreciate your efforts to reach out to those who suffered from this tragedy. Now I urge you to follow up by supporting legislation aimed at banning the sale of guns or explosives to people who have appeared on watch lists, or whom the Justice Department has suspected of ties to terrorist organizations. As the Republican Senator from the state where this tragedy took place, your views will have great impact on your colleagues. I am confident that you have the wisdom and the courage to see that passing this bill is the right thing to do."

If you feel moved to write your own letter, after the service Mary Lou Keller has offered to facilitate letter writing in the Jefferson room.

SATURDAY EVENTS, JUNE 18

* **UU WOMEN'S GROUP:** The next meeting is Saturday, **June 18**, at 10 a.m. 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.

SUNDAY EVENTS, JUNE 19

UUCS Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota

* **10:30 a.m. "Father's Day," sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

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

Hermann Berndt studied cello at the Munich Conservatory of Music in Germany and now spends eight months of the year in Vienna and four months in Sarasota.

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

If you're not in the privileged 1% of America's population, you are no doubt aware that there's a great disparity in income in this country. 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.

John Stinespring has an eclectic background of interest in a wide variety of subjects, but tempered with extensive graduate study including the Ph.D. degree. He has studied history, economics, sociology, anthropology, political science, geography, education, philosophy, art, and music all at the graduate level. In addition to his degrees from Texas Tech University, Indiana University, and Duke University, he has done graduate study at Purdue University, the University of Notre Dame, Northwestern University, Wright State University, and Mysore University in India, where he had a Fulbright Fellowship. He plays tennis regularly and is a bassoonist in several area orchestras.

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

There will be no service of the UUs of LWR until September 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.

* **Sunday June 19th is "Cooking Sunday."** Join us as we hear the story of "The Best Meal Ever" and create a breakfast for us to share. We'll even be cooking up a treat which can be shared for Father's Day. 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 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.

OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS

* **This Sunday, June 19th at 11:30 a.m, immediately following the service -- The Arts Council is pleased to host the artist's reception for artist Elayn Leopold and her exhibit, "URBAN DWELLERS"** -- paintings of people experiencing homelessness. "The men and women in these paintings are courageous individuals caught in hard times," says Elayn. Her subjects are portrayed with compassion, and the resulting body of work speaks to us all. The reception will be held in the Lexow Wing gallery and is an opportunity to meet the artist and talk with her about her work.

*** Zen and the Art of Zen**

Face it: You've heard about Zen, your friends talk about meditation, your curiosity is aroused, you've wondered if it'll help you in your daily life, but you don't know any way to learn more about it. Well, it turns out there is an active Zen meditation session right here at your church, **every Sunday night at 7 p.m.** in the Jefferson Room, and you probably know several of the 12-15 people who attend regularly. It's free and open to everyone, so why not give it a shot? This Sunday, 7 p.m., the topic will revolve around the teachings of Zoketsu Norman Fischer, former abbot of the San Francisco Zen Center.

CARING

* **A Tribute from Hank Prince and Donna Starr-Prince in appreciation of Lois and Charles Lee.**

* **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*.

OUR COMMUNITY

* **The French Conversation Group will no longer be meeting** in the Library on Monday evenings until further notice.

* **Need a member/friend home or email address? Access our Directory** at Members Corner. You can print a PDF version or look online for individuals. The Directory is updated regularly.

UPCOMING EVENTS

*** 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

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.

* **Share-the-Plate, Next Sunday** will go to ALSO Youth, Sarasota's community center for LGBTQ teens, to support their programs, volunteers and staff following the deaths in Orlando. Please be generous.

* **Bethesda House Pantry -- Every Sunday** we collect single serving cans (pork-and-beans, ravioli), travel size toiletries and paper products (toilet paper 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 and sign up online at www.allfaithsfoodbank.org/volunteer.

* **Our Black Lives Matter Banner** is up to recognize Juneteenth (June 19th), the oldest known celebration that commemorates the end of slavery in the U.S.

* **Our Church Is In Top 5% Nationally** among 8,000 faith-based organizations for purchases of Equal Exchange Fair Trade items! Thank you, Suzie Brucklacher, for leading this economic justice project. Looking for chocolate or other Fair Trade items in quantity? Get a special order form at the social justice table on Sunday or from the church website home page.

* **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 two-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, 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 26

* **10:30 a.m. "Freedom! Spiritual, Social and Personal. How does that look in your life?" Sermon by Mindy Simmons**

* **10:30 a.m. Music: Mindy Simmons, guitar and vocals; Don Bryn, piano**

* **9:30 a.m. Forum: "The Effects of Phosphate Mining on Florida's Fragile Environment"**

Phosphate Mining is having a huge impact on the environment of the interior areas of Florida, including Sarasota County. What can be done about 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.

