



June 26, 2016

WEEKLY CONTACT

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

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MINISTER'S MESSAGE - REV. ROGER FRITTS

By the time you read this I will be in Columbus, Ohio, joining about 4,000 other Unitarian Universalists for the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association, called the "General Assembly." You can go online and see the major events live.

<https://www.uua.org/ga/off-site/2016>

A major event is the introduction of the women running for President of the UUA (the actual election is next year). The Presidential Candidates Forum is 1:15 - 2:30 p.m. Saturday, June 25.

After GA I will be in Maryland until August 10. From August 10th to the 22nd I will be in New England, including a week at the Unitarian Universalist conference center on Star Island. I will fly to Sarasota the evening of August 23rd. I want to do a sermon series starting August 28th but I have not yet settled on a topic.

If you are traveling this summer, have fun and be safe. If you are staying in Sarasota, stay safe, stay cool, and have fun. I will see you in August.

SATURDAY EVENT, JUNE 25

* **The Beacon Youth Group of the UU's of Clearwater is sponsoring a float in this Saturday's Pride Parade in St. Petersburg.** They invite all UU's to join them marching in the parade. Assembly is at 7:00 a.m. in the large parking lot at 31st St N & 3rd Ave N. Look for the lighthouse on the Clearwater Beacon Youth float. Information on the Parade is available at: <https://www.stpetepride.com/en/events/prideparade>.

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.

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 Sunday, June 26th for Asalacha Puja Day**, a festival celebrating Buddha's enlightenment and first sermon. Come hear about Buddha's life and his teaching. We'll also be talking about Buddhist prayer flags and making our own flags to hand in the courtyard. 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.

OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS

* **Share the Plate With ALSO Youth**

Each month we designate the fourth Sunday collection for a community organization. Today's collection will go to ALSO Youth, a community center in downtown Sarasota for LGBT youth, age 13-21.

ALSO Youth is a safe and supportive center for teens. It provides physical health, mental health and anti-violence programs. It connects kids with LGBT-friendly services in the community and provides a community space for arts and meetings.

After the Orlando shootings, they opened their doors to the entire community and co-sponsored the memorial vigil at Five Points Park. Executive Director Donna Hanley said, "We felt that it was really important that we open our doors to everyone and anyone that needed support or could offer some support. The LGBT community is a caring and loving community that lives in a world that isn't so caring back to them."

In thanks and support for this organization's work with teens, the social justice committee asks for your generous support.

* **Veterans:** Barry Dyer would like to get together with veterans to discuss two books and talk about how veterans' perceptions of military service changed from enlistment or draft to the present. The books to be discussed are: Marine Corps General Butler's classic, "War is a Racket," and a recent follow-on by David Swanson, "War is a Lie." Interested veterans can meet Barry following the Forum on **Sunday** or join him for coffee at Bob Evans on Fruitville Road on Monday, **June 27th** at 9 a.m. Non-veterans are also invited. Contact Barry Dyer: barry.dyer13@gmail.com, 813 508-5671.

CARING

* **A Tribute from Helene Reeder to thank Catherine Dente for her skill and kindness in restoring my jewelry.**

* **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

* **From Mary Lou Keller - She is pleased to report that in response to Roger's Sunday sermon, we had 89 letters written to our Legislators concerning gun control.** A dozen people took the information and promised to write from home. We can be very proud of this effort.

* **Do you knit? Join the Wednesday morning Artisans** and knit simple wrist warmers for the Troops or head caps for an oncology unit. We have dozens of knitting needles and lots of yarn. We meet, chat and drink coffee from 9:30 to noon in the Jefferson Room each Wednesday.

* **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.

* **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 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 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, 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, JULY 3

* **10:30 a.m. "Listening with the Ear of the Heart," Sermon by Ed Loomis**

Ed Loomis tells us, "I spent the first 53 years of my life in Michigan and for 30 of those years I was employed by the State of Michigan. Upon retirement I moved to Chicago to attend Meadville Lombard Theological School where I received my M. Div. degree in 2003. I opted to not become a parish minister upon graduation. Instead I remained in Chicago and became deeply involved in the First Unitarian Society of Chicago. Twelve years later I decided to move to Florida in search of a warmer climate. I arrived here last October and now reside in Sarasota with 2 cats. I was raised as a Quaker, then Episcopalian and now have been a UU for about 25 years. During those years I have filled many roles from custodian to congregation president. I enjoy reading, eating, walking, historical architecture and listening to music."

* **10:30 a.m. Music: Bonnie Caplan, harp; Don Bryn, piano**

* **9:30 a.m. Forum: "What Are the Problems of Over-Development in Sarasota County and What Can Be Done About It?"**

An update of development trends in our county. Presenter, Dan Lobeck of Control Growth Now; Moderator, Dale Anderson.