



# **WEEKLY CONTACT**

September 11, 2016

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota (UUCS)

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## **MINISTER'S MESSAGE FROM ROGER FRITTS**

A correction from last Sunday's order of service -- I used a reading by Maria A. Oquendo, MD. A couple of you pointed out that Dr. Oquendo is the current president of the American Psychiatric Association, not the American Psychological Association, as I said in the order of service.

Five years ago, I gave a sermon on disabilities in which I talked about having dyslexia. Those of you who receive e-mails from me know this. With spell check, the words are spelled correctly, but they are not always the correct words. My brain sometimes scrambles the order of words. Sometimes I leave out a word. People who receive e-mail from me need to unscramble the words and fill in the blanks. When I am speaking, I have difficulty pronouncing a word or a name that I have not heard before. I can learn the pronunciation, but I need to hear someone else pronounce it several times before it gets fixed in my long-term memory. This is a problem Sunday mornings when I try to say the name of a person I do not know.

All of us have imperfections. Some of us are born with disabilities. Others of us develop them because of an accident or because of age. Some of us can hide our disability as I hide my dyslexia from people who never see my writing. For others of us, the disability is obvious to every stranger. I have enormous respect for the way all of us work to live full lives with our physical differences. And, in my case at least, I welcome corrections.

## **WEEKEND EVENTS**

### **\* Summer Comedy**

**We will be showing the last in our series of 5-star movies on Friday, September 9th, at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. *Leap of Faith*** is about a sham evangelist (Steve Martin) who gets stuck in a small town and decides to hold a revival. It changes his life. Martin's performance is remarkable and you will leave with a smile and plenty to think about. Come join us!

**\* Suncoast Interweave will meet Saturday September 10 at 11:00 a.m.** at Wilda's home. Expect reports on: PrideFest, National Interweave, the SAGE workshop, and an update on our project to ensure equality in long term care facilities. Maggie Villalta from SPARCC will speak about LGBTQIA Victims & Survivors of Sexual Assault, with emphasis on the various types of assaults our elders endure within the community. Potluck to follow! Call 924-0706 for address and directions. All are welcome!

## **SUNDAY EVENTS, SEPTEMBER 11**

### **10:30 a.m. - "Grief Over the Years," Sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

During Memorial Services I often talk about the feelings of grief that we have in the days and weeks following a death. On the 15th anniversary of 9/11, I want to think aloud about how we feel many years after a loss.

\* **Music: Choir; Don Bryn, piano**

### **\* 9:30 a.m. Forum: "The Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) Trade Agreement - What's Hidden in Those Thousands of Pages, and Why Should We Care?"**

President Obama is pushing for approval yet this year, while Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump both say they oppose it. Meanwhile, many progressive groups are livid. We'll be hearing a lot more about it in the next few months. Find out what the shouting's about, then tell us what you think! Presenter, Don Diddams; Moderator, Verna Safran.

### **\* Services resume in Lakewood Ranch on September 11 at 10:00 a.m.**

Do you live in or near Lakewood Ranch? Our Lakewood Ranch congregation took a break for the summer and will resume meetings on **Sunday, September 11, at 10 a.m.** The featured speaker will be Rev. Brock Leach.

## **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.

\* **"BYOC" Welcome Back Party & RE Dedication: Sunday, September 11th** - The children and youth will start off in the Sanctuary for a "Story for All Ages" and a Religious Education Dedication. Then we're off to the West Wing for a "Bring Your Own Cereal" Welcome Back Breakfast. We'll provide bowls, spoons, milk, almond milk and bananas - you bring a favorite cereal. Parents/guardians are welcome to join us.

\* **Youth Group Video Night: Sunday, September 11th** - All youth, 6th grade through high school, are invited to join us from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Youth room as we watch episodes from "The Simpsons." What can we learn from Homer about faith, world religions and social issues? We'll also be discussing our plans for activities and events. We want all youth to have a say, so don't miss this meeting. Bring a friend - there will be pizza & snacks.

\* **Family Event: Saturday, September 17, 5:30 p.m.** - Our first family event of the RE Program year. Join us as we catch up with each other and spruce up the playground. Refreshments and a potluck dinner will follow in the West Wing. Please bring a dish to share.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

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

Carolyn Gutierrez

Sharon Howard

Lynne Lockie

Gail Ward

## **OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS**

\* **Together let's eat less meat. The place to be on September 11th is our Second Sunday picnic potluck**, sponsored by the Sustainable Eating Task Force. Plan ahead and bring us your favorite vegan or vegetarian dish (eight servings or more) and help promote a healthier and more viable world. Delectable summer salads and other delights will be yours to enjoy. Join us after the service at 11:30. Meat items are accepted, although vegan or vegetarian dishes are preferred. All are welcome.

\* **Sunday night Zen meditation group hosts new lending library**

The Sarasota Zen Meditation Group has opened a new lending library with books donated by the Sarasota Mindfulness Institute, which is moving its operations to our church. The books are available for borrowing at the meditation sessions which are held every Sunday night at 7 pm in the church's Jefferson Room. Meditations are 20 minutes long and are preceded by a reading and discussion.

The Zen group is approaching its third anniversary on October 6 and is led by longtime Zen practitioners Paul Lewis and Don DeMaio, both UUCS members. Its sessions are open to the public.

\* **A Message for Newcomers:** If you have recently joined the church or if you have been visiting for a while and would like to get better acquainted with others in our community, we invite you to join one of the "**Chalice Groups: Deep Thinking, Deep Listening.**" Each group has 8-10 members, and together they will select the topics they wish to discuss when they meet twice a month beginning in early October. For more information, visit the Chalice Group table after church. If you wish you may also choose to attend a half-hour sample session after the church service on **September 18 or 25 from noon to 12:30.**

## **THANKS TO THE GARDENING CREW**

\* Thanks to Katherine and the volunteer garden crew for cleaning up our grounds after Hermine. It was amazing how much Spanish moss and how many small branches littered our church property. We did have damage to some of the fabric in the courtyard shade structure in the courtyard, but we hope that will be repaired this week. All in all, we made out pretty well.

A frisky raccoon put a hole in the lining of the Memorial Garden pond. Re-lining involved the yukky job of first cleaning out the muck in the bottom, but that was done and as of this writing, the pond is refilled with water from one of our cisterns and seems to be holding. We hope the raccoons seek other water parks for their friskiness!

The volunteer "garden crew" prunes, rakes, plants and mulches for a couple of hours every Tuesday morning at 9:00. New volunteers are always welcome - one can do as little or as much as one desires.

## CARING

\* **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](http://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](mailto: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

\* **Have you signed up for the Code Red notification and registration?** Google Sarasota government, scroll to the bottom and sign up. You will receive notifications of serious weather conditions. You can also sign up for special evacuation if you have a health issue. If you live alone, have you made arrangements to get together with another if weather circumstances require same?

\* **ARTISANS Drop in on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 - noon.** We make crafts to sell and for church events. We also work on our own hobbies such as knitting hats that we donate to various causes. Material supplied. Join us for coffee and chat.

\* **An important part of our church community is our 'meet and greet'.** Every Sunday we provide juice and cookies for our guests. We are in need of volunteers to take one Sunday a month to fulfill this job. If you can help out, please contact June Brasgalla at [juneb22@comcast.net](mailto:juneb22@comcast.net).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

\* **UU Vets Group meets on Thursday, September 15,** at 9:30 a.m. at Denny's, 3701 Bee Ridge Rd. For more information, call or email Barry Dyer at 813-508-5671, or [barry.dyer13@gmail.com](mailto:barry.dyer13@gmail.com).

\* **Would you like to share your expertise or interest with other UU'ers?** Contact DeeAnna about leading a class and we will add the class to our Fall Adult Programs Calendar. If you need inspiration, take a look at our present class offerings on the UU web site now. Deadline **September 18**. [DeeAnnaDowdle@gmail.com](mailto:DeeAnnaDowdle@gmail.com), 350-3571.

**\* "Discovering UUCS" – A Newcomer Orientation in the Lexow Wing**

**Saturday, September 24; 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.**

If you are considering membership, this workshop is for you. Reverend Fritts will discuss our history and explore with you what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist and a member of this church. Some of our church leaders will join us for lunch to talk about the many activities here and to get acquainted with you. The Membership Committee provides lunch. Be sure to sign up at the Welcome Center!

**\* Get Together Dinners**

Now is the time to sign up for our Fall Get Together Dinners. The dates are Oct. 22, Nov. 26, and Dec. 17. 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](http://www.uusarasota.org)

**Deadline for registering is September 25.**

Carole Malone, John Brackett, Lynda Hill, Judy Weihe, and Nancy Thomas  
Get Together Dinners Committee

**\* If a class is being cancelled or rescheduled, please inform the office so our church Calendar can be kept up to date. Thank you.**

**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, join the mailing list at [justice@uusarasota.org](mailto:justice@uusarasota.org) or stop by the Social Justice table on Sunday.**

**\* Award Winning Documentary "First Freedom - The Fight for Religious Liberty"** will be shown in the Jefferson Room on **September 17**, sponsored by Americans United. Wine and cheese at 7:30 p.m. followed by the film. Free admission. RSVP by September 14th to [mail@AUsarasota.org](mailto:mail@AUsarasota.org). Flyer at the social justice table or at [www.AUsarasota.org](http://www.AUsarasota.org), under Events.

**\* Help UU Flood Victims** in Louisiana. Go to the homepage of the church website for more information. Thank you!

**\* Next Social Justice Meeting** Tuesday, September 13 at noon in the Lexow Wing. All are welcome.

**\* Backpack Volunteer Signup.** Backpack is our child hunger project. For more information see Sara or Don at the Backpack table on Sunday or email [dsslate@comcast.net](mailto:dsslate@comcast.net).

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

\* **Produce Shopping Card.** Pick up your 2-sided wallet card at the social justice table. Carry it when you shop. Take an extra for a friend.

\* **Have You Signed The Petitions?** To: (1) Restore Felon Voting Rights in Florida, (2) Ban Fracking in Florida, (3) further Expand Solar in Florida, (4) Protect the Sarasota city park at Beneva and Fruitville (city residents only). All are 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](mailto:justice@uusarasota.org), subject line Fair Trade Special Order.

### **SUNDAY EVENTS, SEPTEMBER 18**

\***10:30 a.m. "Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War," Sermon by Rev. Roger Fritts**

Airing September 20th at 9 pm on PBS, "Defying the Nazis: The Sharps' War," a new documentary directed by Ken Burns and Artemis Joukowsky, tells the story of Martha and Waitstill Sharp, two of the founders of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). The Sunday before the program, the sermon will explore this story.

\* **Music: Dawn Stahler, violin; Don Bryn, piano**

\* **9:30 a.m. Forum: "Big Sugar Power: Can you feel it?"** It is common to acknowledge the fight against the sugar industry when considering the Everglades restoration. But in truth, no matter where you live in Florida, Big Sugar has a stranglehold on you (whether you realize it or not). After the November 2014 elections, Governor Rick Scott's refusal to address the dire need for restoration and land acquisition south of Lake Okeechobee and the 2015 and 2016 Florida Legislative sessions (including the Amendment 1 debacle), it has become crystal clear that Florida's decision makers are putting the demands of Big Sugar ahead of their mandate to provide clean water to Florida's citizens. Big Sugar rules Florida (for now). During this presentation we will take a look at the industry's impact on Florida and its citizens and consider how we may tackle the problem in a new and more productive way. Be prepared to join the conversation! Presenter, Chris Costello, Sierra Club lead organizer for the Sierra Club Our Wild Florida Campaign; Moderator, Linda Jones.