



## WEEKLY CONTACT – January 6, 2019

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota

Email Submissions to [Sunday@uusarasota.org](mailto:Sunday@uusarasota.org)

Deadline: Tuesday, 12 noon

### MINISTER'S MESSAGE BY ROGER FRITTS

For many years my offer at our annual church service auction has been lunch with the minister and an opportunity to suggest a sermon topic. Last year Marie Keeney was the high bidder and she suggested a sermon about courageous people, moral heroes. Last August Rev. Brock Leach invited me to attend the dedication of a portrait of Dr. John Chenault at Sarasota Memorial's medical office in Newton. I learned about the story of three people, Elizabeth Moore and Dorothy and John Chenault. I realized that this was my auction service, and also my annual January service honoring the civil rights movement during the month that Dr. King was born. January 6, with the help of several members of our congregation, we will tell this story about Sarasota in the early 1960s.

### UUCS SERVICES ON JANUARY 6 at 10:00 and 11:30

#### **\*“A Profile in Courage” by Roger Fritts who states:**

‘As we approach the birthday of Dr. King, I want to reflect on the story of a Sarasota Unitarian Universalist family in the 1960s who showed great courage in the simple act of buying a house. This will be an “Auction Sermon.” Last winter, as my contribution to the Congregation's service auction, I offered to sell the right to select a topic for a sermon that I would write and deliver on an appropriate Sunday morning. Marie Keeney purchased the right to name a topic.’

#### **\*Music: 10:00 Choir and Don Bryn, Piano; 11:30 Mindy Simmons and Ed Kinder**

#### **\*Forum at 10:15 “Community Schools as An Alternative to Privatization”**

There is a strong push for privatization of public education in Florida. Carol Lerner, the Chair of Protect Our Public Schools (POPS) Manasota, will explain what “community schools” are, and why they are an important alternative to adding even more private and charter schools in our communities. Presenter: Carol Lerner; Moderator: Marie Keeney.

#### **\*Discovery and Discussion at 11:30**

*The radical possibilities of man-made DNA.* Every cell that's ever lived has been the result of the four-letter genetic alphabet: A, T, C and G – the basic units of DNA. But now that's changed. In this visionary TED talk, synthetic biologist Floyd E. Romesberg introduces us to the first living organisms created with six-letter DNA – the four natural letters plus two new man-made ones, X and Y – and explores how this breakthrough could challenge our basic understanding of nature's design. Join us! All are welcome. Coordinator: Dave Nelson. Moderator: Susan Eisman.

**UU of LAKEWOOD RANCH at 10:00 at the Lakewood Ranch Hyatt Place**

<https://www.uulakewoodranch.org/>

**\*Ed Loomis will be asking that age old question: 'Are you a Goat or a Sheep? Are we like goats or sheep? Matthew, in the New Testament, states that the goats were condemned to eternal punishment and the sheep to eternal life. Yet the goats and sheep mingled together and were watched over by the same shepherd, ate the same grass and lived in the same pasture? Why should the goats be damned, and the sheep celebrated?'**  
Ed's currently on the Board of the UUCS and a chair of Building and Grounds.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) Catherine Bonner DRE@uusarasota.org**

**\*10:00 RE Classes; 11:30 Childcare provided**

**\*Nursery:** Those 3 and younger will play with our nursery staff and volunteers

**\*Prek-1st Grade:** We Help Others- The children will explore ways to help others around us and will make paper flowers and cards to share with the Caring Committee to use with our sick or sad church members to help cheer them up.

**\*2nd-5th Grade:** Inventions- The class will hear a story about the UU, Mr. Alexander Graham Bell, learn about other children inventors, play the telephone game and start their "invention journal" of things that they think up that could help people or society.

**\*Youth:** The Youth Group will be starting the new curriculum, Our Name is Earl, based on the popular TV Show, My Name is Earl, and will explore the topic of Karma and if there is any truth to "what goes around, comes around".

**ADULT PROGRAMS**

**\*Death Café:** Saturday January 5, 2:00-3:30 James Reeb Room. An opportunity to gather and share thoughts and feelings about death in an open and respectful environment; free of any doctrine or desire to lead anyone to any particular conclusion, course of action, merchandise, or anything like that. All are welcome. Please register in advance. A \$5 donation is requested to cover cost of use of space. For Questions and to RSVP, contact Risa Marlen [risa@lovingheartceremonies.com](mailto:risa@lovingheartceremonies.com).

**\*Everyday Spiritual Practice:** 1st Saturday of the month, 11:00... 12:30, Reeb Room. Deep-listening sharing group using the book written by Unitarian ministers with the same name. One chapter is discussed each meeting. January 5: *Exercise*, we will read this chapter together and then share our thoughts. All are welcome. Drop in. Facilitator: Bob Downie (609) 417-2460 or [rwdownie@comcast.net](mailto:rwdownie@comcast.net).

**\*Kayak Group:** 1st Monday of the Month, usually 9:30... noon, location varies. We gather for a group paddle once a month. Most of us have our own boats. Rentals are available at some launch sites. Easy-to-moderate flat-water paddling. Emphasis is nature observation and conversation, not exercise. For Information: Bill Orcutt (941) 351-6769 or [BillOrcutt71@gmail.com](mailto:BillOrcutt71@gmail.com)

**\*Mah Jongg:** Casual play - second and fourth Wednesdays at 1:00...4:00, West Wing. Bring your own card and a set, if you have one. Open to UU members and friends only. Sign up with Mitzi Hogoboom [Mitzi.hogoboom@gmail.com](mailto:Mitzi.hogoboom@gmail.com) (203) 246-9020.

**\*New—Poetry Group:** starts Monday January 7th, 1:00.... 3:00, West Wing. Join us for poetry out loud. You don't have to be the poet—you can be the poem, if you like. Bring 1 or 2 of your favorites to share and discuss. If possible, bring some extra copies. All are welcome, whether you like to read, write, or just listen. 1st and 3rd Mondays ongoing. Contact Laura Bagby at [lbagby6688@yahoo.com](mailto:lbagby6688@yahoo.com) or Dave Nelson at [2ndrow2@gmail.com](mailto:2ndrow2@gmail.com).

**\*New—Personal Growth and Renewal:** workshop series starts Sunday January 6th, 2:00... 4:00, Reeb Room, with *Purpose, Passion & Possibilities for You, Others and the World*. Join human potential expert Michael Kline in this highly interactive experience. Connect with your life's purpose, live life more fully and explore possibilities for yourself, others and the world. Drop in. All are welcome. Phyllis Mufson at [pmufson@comcast.net](mailto:pmufson@comcast.net).

**\*New—Say Hi to Bill:** 6 class series begins Friday January 11, 10:00....12:00, West Wing. Take a lighthearted look at Shakespeare in a new way. Come and enjoy this fun and lively course. All are welcome! Sign up please. Contact Jo Bellett: [jbellett@outlook.com](mailto:jbellett@outlook.com) or Dave Nelson: [2ndrow2@gmail.com](mailto:2ndrow2@gmail.com).

**\*New—Your Chakra System:** 7 class series starts Tuesday January 8, 10:00...11:30, Reeb Room. Discover your individual chakra map for balance, health, and joy, using bio-energetic information, mindfulness, chakra mapping, guided meditation, music, sharing, and breathwork. Be sure to bring a notebook. For more information or to sign up, contact Alice Greenspan: [flowrette5@gmail.com](mailto:flowrette5@gmail.com), (941) 993-0626.

## CARING

**\*Caring** provides short term help with food, transportation and visits. Would you like to have a buddy? Contact Dee Widder at [DeanaWidder@gmail.com](mailto:DeanaWidder@gmail.com) or 377-9028.

## OUR COMMUNITY

**\*Sunday January 13th is our First potluck of the year!** Please, bring a dish to serve at least 8 people. Vegan and vegetarian plates are preferred but bring what gives you joy to cook and share with the congregation. Potluck is at 12:30 after the second service.

**\*Please consider parking in the Cardinal Mooney High School parking lot on Sundays.** Drive through the gate, turn left and drive to the far end of the parking lot. You may walk across our path to the church parking lot. Thank you.

**\*Would you like to share good news or honor a friend who passed away?** Make a **Tribute** donation and send your check with a Tribute form to the office. Forms are available in the office and online at Members Corner. The Tribute will be acknowledged in the Weekly Contact.

Does the Minister have your Memorial Form on file? Do you wish the office to have your emergency contact information? Submit a form which can be found online at Members Corner or in the office.

**\*Welcome to New Members:** Robert Wyatt and Diana Brady

**\*Happy Birthday!**

January 5 Joan Boyce

January 7 Susan Gerig, Nancy Harris, Sandra Tugwell

January 9 Ava Whaley

January 10 Tom Towler, Jane Yoder

January 11 Josh Leach

January 12 Deborah Thurber

**\*Calling all wordsmiths: UUCS Mission Statement Development Group:**

On January 13 and 20th, the Board of Trustees invites anyone who's interested in helping us work on the church's mission statement to join us in the library at 11:15, after the first service. We will review the progress the board has made on the mission statement and get some inspiration on the 13th, then follow up on the 20th with our new ideas and some polish. Hopefully we can present a finely crafted mission statement to the board in February, and then to the congregation to be voted on in March. If you have ideas to share but cannot make both meetings, please contact Mary Lou Keller at [marylouckeller@yahoo.com](mailto:marylouckeller@yahoo.com) or 941-228-5241.

\*Biographical sketches of our 2018 New Members are at the Welcome Center. Volumes I – IV are available for pickup.

\*Do you have a church key you are no longer using? Please return it to the office. Thank you.

**\*See Sarasota and More, Thursday, January 10**

Join us on our next adventure with See Sarasota and More when we go to the new Imagine Museum in St. Petersburg on Thursday, January 10. Imagine Museum represents the history of the studio glass movement from the 1950's to the present. We will also see an exhibit of Paul Stankard's botanical glass works. After the docent tour at the museum, we will be having lunch at Ferg's Sports Bar and Grill. We will meet at church at 9:30 and be carpooling to St. Petersburg and will be back at church around 3:30. The cost of the trip is \$28.00 which includes the entrance to the museum, lunch, the tip and gas money for the driver. If you have a NARM membership (reciprocal pass) to a museum, the cost is \$18. You may pay with cash or a check made out to Kathy Cook. We will have sign-up sheets available after the service on January 6.

**\*Discovering UUCS – A Newcomer Orientation; Saturday, January 12, 9:30 – 12:30** Lexow Wing If you are considering membership, this workshop is for you. Reverend Fritts will discuss our history and explore what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist and a member of this church. Later some of our church leaders will join us for lunch to talk about the many activities here and answer questions. The Membership Committee provides lunch. It's always an informative and interesting morning. Be sure to sign up at the Welcome Center!

## AUCTION

### **\*It's Time!**

Our **Serendipity Auction** will be here in three weeks - January 27 after the 10:00 service and now is the time.

It's time to make your donation.

It's time to volunteer.

It's time to buy your ticket.

And it's time to mark your calendar- in REALLY BIG LETTERS - because it's the most fun you'll have all year. Want to make sure you'll win all of the meals, outings and special events you're interested in? Bid high and be sure! Fill in your calendar with your winnings and have fun.

Visit the Serendipity Auction table in the courtyard today and we'll help you donate that special item that will put a smile on everyone's face and make our Auction a success.

# ALL ABOARD

Here are five updates from your Board of Trustees:

1. The Board formally adopted the stained-glass chalice logo as our church logo. It was introduced last year on the [home page](#) of our website and used recently on the new Endowment brochure. License to use the artwork was given to us by artist John Keasler, a member of UU San Diego, who was inspired by Sarasota's art scene and gardens when visiting years ago. Thank you again, John.
2. The Ministerial Search Committee seeking a half-time minister now reports four quality applicants, Interviews are progressing. The Board anticipates a start date in late summer, early Fall.
3. Distributing *Contact* by email is already saving staff and volunteer time, money, and it is helping us live up to our Green Sanctuary commitment. Thank you for reading the online edition to keep up with our busy church.
4. Volunteer Appreciation Day has been set for April 14. Trustee Ava Whaley is coordinating. Volunteers can look forward to thoughtful and thorough thanking.
5. Calendar updates: Serendipity Auction, January 27 – donate [today](#) at church or online. Annual Meeting, March 24.

Welcome back dual members and winter visitors. We are happy to share winter warmth and UU enthusiasm. If have attended at our Lakewood Ranch location, it has moved – check the website for more information or call the office.

Ward Pallotta, President of the UU Board

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE**

**\*Reminder:** The Social Justice Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 8 at 12:00 in the Reeb Room. All are welcome.

**\*Gun Violence in 2018:** Fourteen Thousand, four hundred and seventy people have died from gun violence in the last eleven months in the United States. The Social Justice Committee has partnered with the League of Women Voters' Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence and the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. If you would like to receive information about reducing gun violence, contact Pat Allen oreomojo@gmail.com.

**\*We need volunteers for the next Backpacking** at All Faiths Food Bank, Wednesday, January 23, 1:00-3:00. Sign up at the Social Justice Table in the courtyard. For more information contact Nina Tortelli at nwold2@aol.com or Regina Pound at reginapound@gmail.com.

### **UUCS SERVICES ON JANUARY 13 at 10:00 and 11:30**

#### **"If We Can't Dance, What Good Is The Revolution?" by Joshua Leach**

Josh Leach is Policy Analyst at the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, which he joined after a ministerial internship at First Parish in Bedford, Massachusetts, and completing his Master of Divinity degree at Harvard in 2015. Josh is the son of Julie and Brock Leach, long-time members of the UU Church of Sarasota. Josh's family first joined this church in 2000, after they moved to Florida, and Josh grew up attending here through middle and high school. He is a proud member of the congregation to this day.

#### **\*Music: 10:00 and 11:30 Don Bryn, Piano and Fernando Traba, Bassoon**

#### **\*Forum at 10:15**

Will recent elections change the direction of our local governments as they deal with important infrastructure, and development issues, and the continued pressure for privatization of our public services and facilities? Cathy Antunes -- a well-known local expert on local politics, politicians, and how they are funded -- will share her thoughts and what to expect in 2019 and beyond. Presenter: Cathy Antunes.

#### **UU of LAKEWOOD RANCH at 10:00 at the Lakewood Ranch Hyatt Place**

<https://www.uulakewoodranch.org/>

#### **'Universalism: The Gospel of Inclusion' by Roger Fritts**

Those of you with access to Netflix may wish to watch the movie "Come Sunday" in preparation for this sermon.