



WEEKLY CONTACT – December 30, 2018

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota

Email Submissions to Sunday@uusarasota.org

Deadline: Tuesday, 12 noon

** PLEASE consider parking in the Cardinal Mooney High School lot which provides extra parking space to us during the season, for your convenience. Drive into the main Cardinal Mooney entrance, then to the far southwest corner of their parking lot, closest to the church, and follow the signs to the church.*

SUNDAY EVENTS, DECEMBER 30

UUCS – one service only at 10:00

*** 'What is the role of the female goddess in different world cultures' by John Brackett.**

Why do we in Western religions (Christianity, Islam and Judaism) not have a female goddess? What is it about our culture that not only deprecates the goddess but now also seems replete with abusive exploitation of women? The sermon seeks to investigate the possible correlation between the ancient loss of the Western Goddess and the struggles of modern women.

John Brackett has been a Unitarian Universalist since 1988 and is one of the charter Unitarian Universalists of Lakewood Ranch. He was raised Catholic and attended minor seminary in high school. Although he spent his career in information technology, primarily as a database manager, he has a lifelong passion for history, philosophy and psychology. He is also a writer and is pursuing that interest in retirement.

***Music: Don Bryn, Piano**

****Please note that there will be no Forum this Sunday.***

***11:30 Discovery and Discussion – Reeb Room.**

12 truths I learned from life and writing. With disarming familiarity, Anne Lamott tackles what most don't like to consider. Her honest writing helps us make sense of life's chaos. In this compelling TED Talk, she dives into the nuances of being a human who lives in a confusing, beautiful, emotional world, offering her characteristic life-affirming wisdom and humor on family, writing, the meaning of God, death and more. All are welcome. Coordinator: Dave Nelson. Moderator: Susan Eisman.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF LAKEWOOD RANCH 10:00 at the Lakewood Ranch Hyatt Place <https://www.uulakewoodranch.org/d>

*** 'The Theology of Wonder' by Reverend Rick Stackhouse.**

This sermon will embrace the elements of life that inspire wisdom, awe and wonder, while celebrating our differences and unity as people.

Rick grew up in upstate NY near Watkins Glen. He attended Baptist Bible College and Wesley Theological Seminary. He has served as both full time and interim pastor for Baptist, Methodist and United Church of Christ churches. He describes his personal faith history as based less on denomination and more on relationship experience. He currently lives with his wife Carol in Lakewood Ranch and works as a part time chaplain for Tidewell Hospice.

*** Ed Kinder will be our Guest Musician.**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (RE) child care
Catherine Bonner, DRE@UUSarasota.org

ADULT PROGRAMS

***Bridge for Fun:** 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, ongoing, 12:00 - 1:00, Reeb Room, sign up. Contact: Henry Bright at (941) 966-5784.

***Death Café:** Saturday, January 5 - 2:00 to 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.

***Mindfulness:** Wednesdays, ongoing, 12:00 - 1:00, West Wing, show up. Contact: Charles Bradt at 922-5205.

***Passionate about Poetry:** New class starts Monday January 7th – 1:00 to 3:00 - West Wing. Poetry lovers wanted! Join us for fun and conversation. You don't have to be the poet—you can be the poem, if you like. Bring 1 or 2 of your favorite poems to read and discuss. If possible, please bring some extra copies to share. All are welcome. 1st and 3rd Mondays ongoing. Contact: Laura Bagby at lbagby6688@yahoo.com or Dave Nelson at 2ndrow2@gmail.com.

***Personal Growth and Renewal:** A new workshop series beginning Sunday January 6th 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 – 2:00 pm -- Reeb Room, show up. Contact: Phyllis Mufson at pmufson@comcast.net.

***Men's Group on Wednesday** Are you interested in having meaningful topic-based discussions and building relationships with other men who have other life experiences? Our closed group meets on Wednesday afternoons and would like to recruit a couple more dedicated individuals. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Jack Carden at j.carden@ieee.org or 941-302-7755.

***PLEASE NOTE: our FreeThinkers lecture for January 4 has been cancelled.**

CARING

***Caring** helps members and friends of our UU community with short term needs such as meals, transportation and visitations. Let me know if you would like to have or be a "buddy." Check out the wall rack in the Lexow for resource information in Sarasota. If you or someone you know needs assistance, please contact Dee Widder at 377-9028 or deanawidder@gmail.com.

OUR COMMUNITY

* With sadness we announce that long time member **Nan Billings** passed away on December 20. Nan celebrated her 100th birthday with us last March. Walt Billings passed away in 2013. He was the designer of the Chalices on the pulpit and in the Courtyard. Our condolences to her family.

* A service for **Verna Safran**, who died in November 2017, will be held in the Memorial Garden on **Wednesday January 2 at 10:30**. The family will be interring the ashes. Verna's family has asked that her friends join them at the service and for a luncheon afterward at the Columbia Restaurant on St. Armand's Key. If you would like to attend the luncheon, please notify Melissa Bates before December 31 at melissa-bates@ulowa.edu.

*A **Tribute Fund** donation was received from an anonymous church member to thank **Ward Pallotta** and **Ann Urick** for the Sunday a.m. trips to church.

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

On January 13 and 20th, we invite 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 not make both meetings, please contact Mary Lou Keller at marylouckeller@yahoo.com or 941-228-5241.

***If your group is not meeting at its usual time, please inform the office so we may update the church Calendar. Thank you.**

SEE SARASOTA

***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 December 30.

***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!

SAVE THE DATE: JANUARY 27 SERENDIPITY AUCTION

Give what you love.



Are you struggling with ideas on what to donate to our Serendipity Auction **on January 27** after the 10 o'clock service? Want to talk about it? Let's brainstorm in the Courtyard **next Sunday** where members of the Auction committee can help you decide what to give. Ethnic meals, elaborate feasts, casual luncheons, baked goods, a movie and lunch, day trips, a Super Bowl party, vacation rentals, pet sitting, handyman work, rides to the airport- think about what you love to do and share it with someone else. How about a ride on your boat? A round of golf, tickets to the theater, a piece of art- if you like it someone else will too!

Questions? Email: auction@uusarasota.org

***Happy Birthday!**

December 28 Carol Ewert, Nancy Janus

December 29 Irene Holleran, JoAnn Kelly, Betty Thorner

December 30 Rona Gahr, Brock Leach, Vic Mahler, Sharon Seager

January 2 Don Pound

January 3 Schuyler Seager

If you're a member with a birthday this week that is not listed, please inform the office.

OUR COMMITMENTS - SOCIAL JUSTICE



***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. Contact Nina Tortelli at nwold2@aol.com or Regina Pound at reginapound@gmail.com if you need more information.



***Looking for social justice information?** Stop by the Social Justice table in the courtyard to learn about volunteer opportunities and to purchase fair trade items including chocolate, coffees, teas and olive oil. Also check out the Social Justice web pages on the church's website, go to uucsarasota.com and click the Social Justice tab. For fair trade special orders, contact Suzie Brucklacher at justice@uusarasota.org, subject line, Fair Trade Special Order.

SUNDAY SERVICES ON JANUARY 6

UUCS

***10:00 and 11:30: A Profile in Courage – Roger Fritts**

***10:00 Music: Choir, Don Bryn, Piano**

***11:30 Music: Mindy Simmons, Ed Kinder, Piano**

***10:15 Forum**

***11:30 Discovery and Discussion**

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF LAKEWOOD RANCH 10:00 at the Lakewood Ranch Hyatt Place <https://www.uulakewoodranch.org/>

*** Are you a Goat or a Sheep? – Ed Loomis**

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 the by same shepherd, ate the same grass and lived in the same pasture? Why should the goats be damned, and the sheep celebrated?

Church member Ed Loomis received a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree from the Meadville Lombard Theological School in 2007. Ed is on the UUCS Board and Chair of the Buildings Committee.