



WEEKLY CONTACT – February 17, 2019

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota

3975 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34232

941-371-4974

PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL: Email Submissions to ContactUUCS@gmail.com.

Deadline: Tuesday, 12 noon

Please list publication date in the subject line

MINISTER'S MESSAGE BY ROGER FRITTS

Your pledge for our April 1-March 31, fiscal year is important. It will support worship services, ceremonies of passage, events and programs, religious education, artistic endeavors, buildings and grounds and staff salaries. Perhaps your happy experience with an activity in the church will encourage a large pledge.

However, I encourage you to consider the broader purpose of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota. We believe in the freedom of religious expression. We believe in the principle of the democratic process and the essential dignity of all human beings. We believe in using reason and experience to test religious claims. We are a unique institution in our community.

When you make a financial commitment by filling out a pledge card, you are supporting more than paper and light bulbs, and more than a particular interest or special program. What you are buying is a liberal presence--a voice of rational religion in the heart of Sarasota. No one will support that presence-if you do not.

Our stewardship committee will be passing out cards at the service Sunday and sending more information and a pledge card in the mail next week. To model generosity, and to put my money where my values are, I will be pledging 5 percent of my income. I invite you to join me.

SUNDAY EVENTS, FEBRUARY 17

UUCS

10:00 and 11:30 Religious Humanists in the Heart of Sarasota Sermon by Roger Fritts

We do not require you to agree to a creed to be a member. We have a wonderful diversity of backgrounds in this congregation. Members self-identify as Christian, Jewish, Buddhist and other traditions. However, one identity stands out. In Sarasota no other established organization with a building and a staff welcomes humanists. In a 2011 survey 62.4 percent of this congregation said they had an affinity for Humanism. The sermon will reflect on this important role we play in our community. (Pictured left is Charles Darwin, to be honored by humanists on Charles Darwin Day, February 16.)

*Music at **10:00** Choir, Don Bryn, Pianist; **11:30** Dirty Cello, Dan Dembicki, Pianist

From China to Italy, and all over the U.S., Dirty Cello brings the world a high energy and unique spin on blues and bluegrass. Led by vivacious cross-over cellist, Rebecca Roudman, Dirty Cello is cello like you've never heard before. From down home blues with a wailing cello to virtuostic stompin' bluegrass, Dirty Cello is a band that gets your heart thumping and your toes tapping!

10:15 Forum News of the Week in Review: John Stinespring will again lead an open forum discussion of selected news topics. He will use his extensive knowledge of both history and current events and his unique teaching style to lead a lively and informative discussion. Presenter and Moderator, John Stinespring

*11:30 Discovery and Discussion: "What your breath could reveal about your health." Sunday, February 17, 11:30...12:30 Reeb Room There's no better way to stop a disease than to catch and treat it early, before symptoms occur. That's the whole point of medical screening techniques like radiography, MRIs and blood tests. But there's one medium with overlooked potential for medical analysis: your breath.

In this fascinating TED talk from November 2018, Technologist, Dr. Julian Burschka shares the latest in the science of breath analysis -- the screening of the volatile organic compounds in your exhaled breath -- and how it could be used as a powerful tool to detect, predict and ultimately prevent disease. [TED@Merck](#), Darmstadt, Germany. Coordinator: Dave Nelson. Moderator: Ann Urich.

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

10:00 classes

11:30 childcare for children in 5th grade or younger with age appropriate activities.

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

PreK-5th Grade: Children's Chapel in the West Wing. This week the children will learn about the importance of butterflies and bees to our environment and will plant seeds for flowering plants that help those species. The plants will be used in our future Welcome garden.

Youth: The topic this week is Acceptance. What is true acceptance of another? Watch an episode of My Name is Earl to start the discussion.

All of RE is sending our love and condolences to Muriel and Jim Redifer and the Redifer family. This week Muriel's father passed away.

OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS

*Don't miss the new art exhibit in the Lexow Wing gallery! The opening reception for "Paintings/Drawings" by guest artist Jim Stewart and glass artist Esther Jensen will be this Sunday from 11:00 to 1, after each service. Please join the Arts Council in welcoming Jim Stewart and this fascinating collection of paintings and drawings. You may recognize his style from the work used on Sarasota

Orchestra Summer Music Festival posters in prior years. Glass art by UUCS member Esther Jensen will also be on display. Esther exhibits regularly in the Art Uptown Gallery downtown, and other venues around the region. Come visit with both these artists and see their work. The exhibit will be up until March 14.

LAKWOOD RANCH at 10 at Hyatt Place - www.uulakewoodranch.org

*This Sunday we are fortunate to have as our guest speaker Barbara Walker who will bring a message titled "The Rise of Sexism: Women in Western Civilization". As a writer of 25 books and numerous articles on comparative religion, feminism and history, Barbara Walker's talk will present a survey of how attitudes toward women have changed over the centuries. She is the author of the humanist essays: "Man Made God" and "Belief and Unbelief".

Jan Dorsett will be our Guest Musician.

ADULT PROGRAMS

*Bridge for Fun: 1st and 3rd Wednesdays, ongoing, 1:00...4:00 Reeb Room, sign up. Contact Henry Bright at HenBright@aol.com 941- 966-5784.

*The Everyday Spiritual Practice Group: meets next on Saturday, March 2, 11:00...12:00 in the Reeb Room.

We shall read and discuss "Everyday Relationships" by Jane Mauldin pp.153-58. We listen deeply to each other.

New participants are welcome. Books are available for purchase but not necessary to do so to attend. Address questions to Bob Downie, rwdownie@comcast.net or 609 417 2460.

*NEW - UUCS Men's Group #4: Starts Tuesday, March 5, 1:00...3:00 in the Teen Room Offered as a complement to the already existing UUCS Men's Groups. An opportunity for UUCS adult males to meet on a regular basis to discuss issues of mutual concern. Also, an opportunity to bond with other UUCS males and form beneficial relationships within the framework of Unitarian Universalist Guiding Principles. UUCS Members only. 1st/3rd Tuesdays ongoing. Contact Dick Stammer: 941-504-3584 or rstammer@verizon.net.

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

*Personal Growth and Renewal: New session Sunday, March 3 from 2-4 in the Reeb Room. Florida Creativity Conference founder Kitty Heusner will help you "Unlock Your Deeper Knowing Through Visual Experience." This experiential workshop is free to UUC members. Sign up in advance please! To join the notification list email Phyllis Mufson, pmufson@comcast.net

*Play Reading Group: Meets next on Friday, February 22, 1:00 - 3:00 West Wing. A group having fun reading and discussing a variety of short plays. The emphasis is on one act plays or plays that can be completed in one session. Each week the group will decide which play to do

next. All are welcome. Try it! 2nd and 4th Fridays ongoing. Contact Cyndy Rosso: cynthiarosso032@gmail.com or Dave Nelson: 2ndrow2@gmail.com.

*Poetry Group: Meets next on Monday, February 18, 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 or Dave Nelson at 2ndrow2@gmail.com.

*Veteran's Group: Meets next on Wednesday February 20. Ongoing the 3rd Wednesday of the month, 9:00 - 10:30, McDonalds 3828 Bee Ridge Rd. Discussion group of Sarasota UU members who were ever active duty or reserve members of a US military organization. Contact Barry Dyer (813) 508-5671 or barry.dyer13@gmail.com.

FROM THE GARDEN GATE by Dick Happy

*Stairway to Heaven?

No, just to the East Sanctuary walkway. A few months ago, Buildings and Grounds members tested (stomped on) the old stairway and found that it was rotting out and removed it. Now the "stairway to our heaven" has been replaced with concrete steps. And concrete doesn't rot, does it? It is a stairway in perpetuity, is it not?

*The Falling Leaves Drift by My Window

As I sat in the service on Sunday and watched oak leaves cascading into the Memorial Garden, the words to the old Johnny Mercer song came to mind, and I let out an inward groan. You see, I know that trees are lovely and that they are environmentally helpful and that they provide much needed shade protection from the tropical Florida sun, but I also know that at this time of year, many of them lose their leaves. This annoys me. I thought that when we moved to Florida the traditional New England autumn task of raking leaves (which I hated) would become just an unpleasant memory. But unfortunately, that was not to be. There are deciduous and partly deciduous trees in Florida and we have them on the church property. At this time of year, the leaves do fall. Lots of them. Golden Rain Tree Leaves, Oak Leaves, Elm Tree leaves, Maple leaves. They fall in the memorial garden and on the walkways and on the driveways. The wind blows them into the courtyard where Katherine, our custodian, has to deal with them on a daily basis. We ask the landscaper to do some raking, and we ask the Garden Crew to do some as well. Diane even asks me to do some raking. "Really?", I say. "We are in Florida and not New England and....." "Be quiet and rake," she says. Full disclosure: she didn't say that as we are card carrying UUs and subscribe to the worth and dignity principle. She actually said, "Won't you join me experiencing nature as we celebrate the dying of the old and the beginning of the new." And I said, "I would love to."

CARING

*We send our best wishes to **Lucy Garcia** who was recently hit by a car and has 2 broken legs. Please send cards to 33 Gulfstream Avenue, #309 Sarasota 34236.

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

*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.

OUR COMMUNITY

***El Parent** made a tribute donation in honor of the **Rev. Brock Leach** for officiating at Sandra Parent's memorial service. The donation is for the Social Justice funds.

*A Tribute Fund donation was received from **June Bragalla** to honor **Christian Gimenez, Alex Sarruff and Katherine Isabelle** for the Second Sunday Potluck work that they do.

*UU mother and 2 teenage boys looking to rent or share housing, can pay \$750 per month, will do household duties. Contact Dee Widder at DeanaWidder@gmail.com or 377-9028.

*Got Pets? Send a photo of you and your pet to dre@uusarasota.org for a special project the children are doing on Families and Pets. Mark your calendars for our Annual Pet Blessing and Potluck on March 9 at 5 in the afternoon.

*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. Note that there are new handicap spots by the church library and another four handicap spots behind the sanctuary, with a ramp leading up to the sanctuary.

*We have an easy-to-use Directory at Members Corner. Sign in at uusarasota.org, click on Members Corner...if you need the password, call the office, scroll to Member Search type in the first or last name. Click on the person's name to bring up their address.

*Please note we have a new address for Contact submissions. Send your items to ContactUUCS@gmail.com. In the subject line, please list your date of publication. Deadline is Tuesday at noon.

Happy Birthday to the following members:

February 15 Joan Kaplan, Joan Sarney
February 17 Kelly Six
February 18 Ted Hoffman, Barbara Bowling
February 19 Gail Coppock, Susan Cohen, Charles Allen
February 20 Rhoda Taylor
February 22 Vince Burns, Sara Slate

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

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITMENTS

*February 18 at 7:00 in the evening: Racial Healing: An Inner and Outer Journey Speaker: Dr. Catherine Meeks, Professor Emeritus, Wesleyan College & Director, Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing. February 25 at 7:00 in the evening, What We Believe Matters: A Bonhoeffer Moment. Speaker: Dr Lori Hale, Associate Professor, Augsburg College. This series is held at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 790 S. Tamiami Trail, Venice and sponsored by the Venice Interfaith Community Association.

*Ever wonder how waste water gets purified for reuse for irrigation use? In Sarasota it's done at the Bee Ridge Water Reclamation Facility. The Green Team has arranged for a behind-the-scenes tour on February 26 at 10:00. The tour should take about 1-1/2 hours. Those who sign up will be contacted with location address and safety requirements for the facility. To sign up contact: Lindaclasson@gmail.com.

*Gun Violence in the United States: From January 1 - February 7, there have been 1401 deaths due to gun violence. This figure does not include not include suicides by guns. Source <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/> Stop by the Social Justice table to fill out the Constitutional Amendment Form to Ban Assault Weapons Now.

*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.

*Fill out the petition form to expand Medicaid in Florida and learn more about the Malawi Tools Project. See the information below to learn more about these two initiatives. 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.

*Tools for Malawi Project: If you have old hand tools that you are no longer using, please consider donating those tools to the "Tools for Malawi Project". Malawi is a tiny poor country in Africa. Most families have few tools to build or maintain their property. Your old hand tools will be put to good use.

Please help. Stop by the Social Justice table, pick up a list of tools needed and place the tools in the container on the courtyard marked with easily identifiable signage.

*Petition to expand Medicaid in Florida: Planned Parenthood has initiated a petition drive to expand Medicaid in Florida. Our Social Justice Committee is one of several groups participating in the petition drive. If you are a Florida registered voter, stop by the Social Justice table to fill out the form.

*You may recall, then Governor Rick Scott refused to accept more than \$50 billion that would have come from the Federal government to support a Medicaid program. As of November 2018, 36 states and the District of Columbia had adopted Medicaid expansion. Help us get Medicaid expansion on the 2020 ballot, by filling out the Constitutional Amendment form.

UPCOMING EVENTS

*UU Vets Group meets on Wednesday, February 20, 9-10:30 at McDonalds on Bee Ridge just east of Beneva. For info, call Barry Dyer at 813-508-5671.

*Call to UUCS Artists -- April 2019 Themed Members Exhibit, "A Good Earth". Ed Schempp, a lifelong Unitarian-Universalist activist wrote that "Unitarian-Universalism looks not to a perfect heaven, but toward a good earth." Ways we can help create "A Good Earth" guided by our 7 Principles is the theme for the show. It's not too early to start! UUCS Members and Friends are invited to participate. Each person may submit up to two pieces no larger than 16 x 20 inches each, or one larger piece up to 30 x 30 inches. Three-dimensional pieces will also be accepted. To reserve your space, provide size and the title card information for your work (Title, Medium, Price, and your name and contact information) to Gail Coppock at gailcoppock@gmail.com by April 12.

SUNDAY EVENTS, FEBRUARY 24

UUCS

10:00 and 11:30 Jim Scott will be our guest speaker and guest musician.

For more than three decades, Jim Scott has made it his business to create and perform music that celebrates the earth. His songs and poetry have inspired and educated audiences around the world. He has developed presentations for every age group and crafted songs that sensitize his listeners to the beauty of the earth, teaching principles of ecology in memorable verses.

10:15 Forum: "Key Issues for the 2019 Florida Legislative Session"

What to watch, and watch out for, as the Florida House and Senate meet in Tallahassee beginning March 5. Their 60-day annual session may address criminal justice reform and the Second Chances referendum which passed in November and is our opportunity to be heard on many issues.

Presenter, Marie Keeney, Moderator, Jim Keeney.

11:30 Discovery and Discussion

10:00 **Unitarian Universalists of Lakewood Ranch** www.uulakewoodranch.org

Meets at Hyatt Place