



February 12, 2012

WEEKLY CONTACT

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Rick Sandler

Annual Meeting - Make Sure You Can Vote!

Our annual church meeting is scheduled for March 25. We'll be voting on some important topics, among them, whether to change the name of the church. To ensure that you can vote, please be aware that you must have been a member of the church at least one month prior to the annual meeting (February 19th deadline) and you must have made "an identifiable contribution" to the church. This contribution can be made anytime up until the actual date of the annual meeting, but we **highly recommend** that you make arrangements with Roberta Druif, our Church Administrator, well in advance so that we can be sure our rolls are correct. All members will sign in and receive a ballot for the name change vote. If you intend to have your vote count, please make sure you are a member in good standing.

Rick Sandler, President

HAPPENING SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12

*** 10:05 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.: Forum: "Corporations Are Not People: The OCCUPIED Amendment and Other Efforts to Overturn Citizens United" - Marie Keeney or Tom Dente, Moderator; Jim Keeney, Presenter.**

In Citizens United, the Supreme Court allowed unlimited political influence through corporate cash. Amending the Constitution is the only way to overturn a Supreme Court decision "OCCUPIED - Outlawing Corporate Cash Undermining the Public Interest in our Elections and Democracy" and other proposals to restore power to the people will be examined.

*** 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. "Was Darwin a Unitarian?" - Rev. Roger Fritts.**

Mindy Simmons will perform as musician during the 9:00 a.m. Service. Thomas Koch will be the guest musician during the 11:00 a.m. Service.

Thomas Koch is the founding president of GuitarSarasota, as well as a noted teacher and performer. He began his classical guitar studies at age 11 in his native Germany. After graduating from two music conservatories with degrees in music education and guitar performance, Thomas traveled to France, Spain, Portugal and Croatia to further expand his horizon in the world of music. Thomas has performed as soloist with many orchestras along Florida's gulf coast, and he is the founding president of Guitar Sarasota, a non-profit organization that promotes the education, appreciation and cultural significance of the classical guitar.

* **11:00 a.m.: Children's Religious Education - Childcare and crafts are provided during the 9:00 a.m. service. During the 11:00 a.m. service, the following is offered:**

Nursery - loving care for infants and toddlers is available.

PreK-1st will discuss the UU chalice in detail including the sacred circles that surround the chalice. The session also introduces the hymn "Spirit of Life" as a symbol of Unitarian Universalist communities. The children will work to design their own symbol to represent their own faith.

2nd-4th graders - The theme for this week is "Unconditional Love, a Gift from Our Universalist Tradition." The children will be introduced to the first Unitarian Universalist Principle, the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

5th-6th graders - This first session introduces the concept of big questions. Youth explore the importance of big questions to humankind, investigate their first 'Big Question' and study the purposes and practices of the Riddle and Mystery program.

Teens will continue planning for Spectrum Cafe.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

* **Please visit the Stewardship Table in the courtyard for all the information you might need to help determine your pledge for our new fiscal year. We have several handouts that can answer questions you might have, and if they don't, we will find out the answers for you.**

And yes, we can now accept pledges using a credit card (and help you collect extra points and miles). There are two ways to do this: either you can go to our homepage and click on the link or by filling out an authorization form, which we will have available at our table, and turning it in to Roberta Druif, our Church Administrator.

We're here to help, stop by our table and please don't be shy. Members of the 2012 Stewardship Committee are: Jeanie Craig, Barbara DeMaio, Roberta Druif, Lynda Hill, Patricia McGarry, Sue Moreland, ex-officio, Roger Fritts and Rick Sandler. Bill Payton is our Chair.

** Stewardship Dinner: Saturday, March 10.*

6:30 p.m. Wine & Hors d'oeuvres; 7:00 p.m. Dinner and Entertainment

\$12 adults; \$6.00 Children under 12 years old.

Tickets on Sale in the Courtyard this Sunday

Ticket sales cut off March 1.

* Welcome Guests! Stay and have cookies and **coffee with us after the service.** Give us a chance to make you feel welcome by coming to the blue table in the Courtyard.

* **Church website - We have a brief history of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota stored on our church website.** Members and friends will find it interesting. It's in the form of a short booklet composed in 2002 for our 50th anniversary. Go to www.uusarasota.org and click the tab Our Church.

* **Have you learned to browse the church website www.uusarasota.org yet?** We have an on-line directory and a list of birthdays. Call the office for the password.

OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS

* **The following members of the Friday morning Chalice Group will help out with this morning's potluck: Kathy & Tom Cook, Catherine & Tom Dente, Helene Reeder, Marilyn Johnson and Don & Sara Slate.**

***To alleviate parking lot crowding, 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, drive to the far southwest corner of their parking lot, closest to the church, and then follow the signs to the church.

* **Religious Education Valentine Party and Roundtable Discussion**

After today's 11:00 a.m. church service, parents and children are invited to bring their pot luck lunch to the Jefferson Room. Parents will have a chance to share their ideas and questions about our family activities and the RE program while their children are having fun with Valentine crafts and treats.

* **Serendipity Auction Update**

Please pick up the invoice for your wonderful auction items today and pay by cash, check, or credit card. Donors can also get their lists of attendees/buyers, with phone numbers and emails today. If you bought additional items last week, we have a revised invoice ready for you. We're in the Lexow Wing until 11:00 a.m., and after that we'll be in the Jefferson room. The updated Winners List is posted on the church website in the Members Corner. Remember not to use your own name for the User ID.

OUR COMMUNITY

* **A Tribute by Marie Millett in memory of Doris O'Hara.**

* **A Tribute by Gail Perr Czina to celebrate the life of Doris O'Hara. Her spunk and thoughtfulness will be missed.**

* **A Tribute by Gail Perr Czina to thank Pat Sindlinger for caring for all the choir sheet music.**

* **The Tribute Fund is a great way to honor someone, give thanks or just celebrate a special event.**

Call Esther Martin at 923-2177 or pick up a form in the church office or the kiosk in the Lexow Wing.

* **Would you like to have a home visit? Please call Dee Widder and we'll arrange to see you and tell you all the latest church happenings. If you have any other Caring need, call Dee at 377-9028.**

* **Chalice Groups: Deep Thinking, Deep Listening. There are a couple of openings in the Thursday afternoon (12-2 pm) group. If you would enjoy exploring some stimulating topics as you get to know a small group of UU members and newcomers please email nancyethomas@msn.com**

* **Sharing cards are available in the Sanctuary on Sundays. Blue for Concerns, Yellow for Joys.**

Your card will be read by the Minister. If you have a Caring need or would like a cheery visit, call Dee Widder at 377-9028.

* **Name Change Proposal - Do you think we should change our name from UU Church of Sarasota to UU Congregation of Sarasota?** Read more and add your comments at our website or on the Kiosk in the Lexow Wing - Tom Dente and Dee Widder.

UPCOMING EVENTS

* **The February Interweave movie is "Trembling Before G-D" which will be shown on Wednesday, February 15th, at the home of Ron and Logan.**

Two well-known issues dominate this documentary - Homosexuality and religion. Gay and lesbian Jews who have been cast off by their families and by religious figures are interviewed in major cities across the globe. Most of those interviewed still struggle with balancing an intolerant faith with their sexual orientation. The orthodox among us, including some physiologists, still cling to the myth that sexuality is a choice and they still prescribe "cures." It is sad - when all those interviewed want - is to feel like they belong to the religion of their youth.

We meet at 6:00 p.m. with a 7:00 p.m. show-time. Please respond with salads, side-dishes and desserts to go with the pizza from Guerrero's Bakery.

* **Opera comes to the Sanctuary in an afternoon concert on February 19th.**

The UUCS Sanctuary Series will present the combined talents of soprano Deborah Berioli and accompanist, pianist Hsia-Jung Chang of New York, in a concert entitled "The Beautiful French Impressionist Music of Debussy and Gabriel Faure" on Feb. 19, at 4:00 p.m.

Berioli, who also doubles as Music Director at the UU church in Venice, was a resident artist with Opera San Jose and performed eight leading roles, including 'The Countess' in Mozart's 'Le Nozze di Figaro,' the title role in Puccini's 'Tosca,' 'Amelia' in Verdi's 'Un Ballo in Maschera,' 'Mimi' in Puccini's 'La Boheme' and 'Donna Anna' in Mozart's 'Don Giovanni.'

The concert is part of the UUCS ongoing Sanctuary Series. Tickets are \$10 and will be sold at the door or online on this page: <http://uusarasota.org/concerts-beriola>. There will be a complimentary wine and cheese reception with the artists in our courtyard after the concert. Join us in the Sanctuary for an intimate afternoon of opera classics.

* **Another Chance to Cook**

Our next cooking class at Whole Foods, just for UU's, is scheduled for Thursday, March 1, at 6:00 p.m. For just \$10 each, we will again learn to prepare, and then partake of a delicious meal under the entertaining instruction of Robin Rosen. To reserve your place, call Judy Hoerr at 359-2846, or e-mail her at ejhoerr@gmail.com Consider joining us. It's a lot of fun!

OUR COMMITMENTS

* **The UUCS Social Justice Committee is working each week to solve issues in homelessness, hunger, needs of children and families, human rights and the health of our planet, and we bring you opportunities to get involved in these areas.** Twice a week we serve meals to the homeless at Salvation Army; additional opportunities, coming soon, are listed below. Get details and sign up for all opportunities at our Social Justice Table near the Lexow Wing.

* **The Social Justice Committee meets this Tuesday, February 14, at noon, in the Lexow Wing - all are welcome.**

* **'Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida' is having its 46th annual dinner celebration on Tuesday, March 6.** Cecile Richards, President of 'Planned Parenthood Federation of America,' is the featured guest speaker. The Social Justice Committee contributed an advertisement to their program book again this year, and some of us will be attending the dinner. If you'd like to attend or want more information, please stop by the SJ table in the courtyard.

* **The Women's Interfaith Network and the Social Justice Committee of UUCS are hosting Marleine Bastien, speaking on: *Keeping the Faith: Haitian Spirituality in the Face of Catastrophe* at our church in the Lexow wing on Sunday, February 19th at 2:30 p.m.** Ms. Bastien is the recipient of 'Amnesty International's Human Rights Award,' 'Ford Foundation's Leadership for a Changing World Award,' 'MS Magazine "Woman of the Year,"' and 'Essence Magazine's "One of the Most Remarkable Women in the World."' They say that Haiti is 90% Catholic; 100% Voodoo. Marleine will explain the role that these faiths have among Haitian people. A suggested donation of \$2.00 will be shared between *WIN* and *Mothers Helping Mothers*, and some Haitian objets d'art will be on display and for sale.

* **We are collecting boxtops and labels for education at the Social Justice table to support programs at Memorial Elementary School in Arcadia.** This is the school we support through our weekend food backpack program with All Faiths Food Bank. A flyer showing which labels and boxtops qualify for the program is available at the Social Justice table.

OUR COLUMNISTS

Rick's Ramblings - Get Ready For A Busy February!

Well, it's only the second month of the calendar year, but it's almost the end of our fiscal year. This is going to be a big month at the church. Your Board of Trustees and the Finance Committee have been working on next year's budget, which will be presented to the congregation at our annual meeting. I'd like to highlight some of the activities of note.

Serendipity Auction: Bravo and thanks to the many people who worked so hard to make this year's auction a smashing success. At last count, we had exceeded our goal of \$22,000 (the committee is still finalizing the numbers) and everyone had a wonderful time. The food was great, the auction items were terrific - it was a great day at church. Marie Keeney and Susan Isgar (co-chairs) did a fantastic job. Also thanks to Jim Keeney and all the other volunteers who made this such a memorable event.

Second Sunday Service: the experiment began on February 5, with two services. Roger and the committee have done a lot of planning to ensure that this goes smoothly. I hope many of you will try the 9:00 a.m. service to see if you like it. We expect that this will alleviate some of the over-crowding we have been experiencing in the sanctuary, and it will give all of us a choice of which service best meets our needs and our schedule.

Stewardship Campaign: we kick off this year's stewardship campaign today. Our theme is "Promises to Keep." The committee, chaired by Bill Payton, has worked out a detailed schedule of events that will culminate in our

Celebration Dinner on March 10. We all hope that we have a lot to celebrate as we achieve our objective of making this year's budget. It is, admittedly, a challenging budget, but it is well thought-out and includes many items that we feel are important to help us continue to grow and provide quality worship and pastoral care to our members and friends.

Backpacks For Kids: this program continues throughout the remainder of the school year. We have many volunteer drivers and packers who meet every other week to pack the food for the school kids. This is a big operation that requires a lot of organization, but it is going smoothly and the elementary school is very grateful for our donation.

Photo Directory: thanks to Gail Colella and Life Touch for our new photo directory. Now that all of the actual photos have been taken, Gail and Jim Raudabaugh are hard at work doing the actual layout for the directory. This directory is FREE for everyone and is an excellent resource. I can't wait to see it.

Finally, look for a big church mailing coming your way. We will soon be mailing the packet of material you will need to review in preparation for the annual meeting. This packet will include: recommended bylaw revisions, the proposal for a possible name change for the church, the slate of officers for the Board of Trustees and the slate for the Nominating Committee.

So, as you can tell, it's going to be a very active month. I look forward to seeing you in church.

Rick Sandler - President, Board of Trustees

COMING NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12

*** 10:05 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.: Forum: ACLU Issues in Florida -Jim Chastain, Moderator; Andrea Morgersen, Presenter.**

Florida ACLU Board and Vice-President of the Sarasota/Manatee/DeSoto ACLU Board will discuss church/state religious and other civil rights issues with which Florida ACLU is involved.

*** 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. "Lincoln's Religion" - Rev. Roger Fritts.**

Special Music at 11:00 a.m. Service: Thomas Koch, Classical Guitar.