

Unitarian Universalist
Church of Sarasota
3975 Fruitville Road
Sarasota, FL 34232



FIRST CLASS MAIL

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SARASOTA
3975 Fruitville Road, Sarasota FL 34232 — (941) 371-4974



CONTACT

Fax: (941) 377-4897

E-mail: uusara@gte.net

Web site: www.uusarasota.org

SUNDAY SERVICE: 10:30 a.m.

April 19, 2009 — No. 2009-4

Rev. Roger C. Peltier, Minister

*Minister's Appointment Hours: 12 noon - 4 p.m.
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and by Arrangement*

Church Office Calling Hours: 10-2 Monday thru Friday

Brock H. Leach, Student Minister

Paul Lewis, Choir Director

Jan Dorsett, Pianist, David Katz, Soloist

Virginia Griesé, Religious Exploration Director

Sandy Theiss, Office Administrator & Bookkeeper

Katherine Isabelle, Custodian

Contact Editors:

Gail Colella, Jane Grundy, George Milburn

Contact E-Mail: contactnews@verizon.net

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

<i>President:</i>	<i>Rick Sandler</i>	<i>412-0906</i>
<i>Vice President:</i>	<i>Jim Craig</i>	<i>751-5194</i>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<i>Barbara DeMaio</i>	<i>371-8118</i>
<i>Secretary:</i>	<i>Dee Widder</i>	<i>377-9028</i>
<i>Trustees:</i>	<i>Joanne Curtis</i>	<i>929-0578</i>
	<i>Catherine Cyrus</i>	<i>359-9511</i>
	<i>Dana Keller</i>	<i>377-9815</i>
	<i>Pat Liebert</i>	<i>379-0317</i>
	<i>Sue Moreland</i>	<i>362-9497</i>
	<i>Muriel Redifer</i>	<i>926-4138</i>

WE COVENANT:

- ... To actively live the Unitarian Universalist principles;
- ... To welcome and nurture diversity of belief and openness of religious expression without dogma;
- ... To create a caring atmosphere;
- ... To provide a person-centered, moral and ethical education for children and adults.

OUR MISSION IS:

- ... To provide and perpetuate the principles of Unitarian Universalism;
- ... To provide the motivation and means to serve the wider community.
- ... To promote justice, tolerance and compassion in ourselves, among ourselves and in the wider community.

IN THE PULPIT - 10:30**May 3 - 10:30 AM: "Living Side by Side"****Rev. Roger Peltier**

We've all heard about the irresolvable Hatfield-and-McCoy-type conflicts between people like those in Israel and Palestine. But sometimes folks figure out a way to live with their differences, like they have done at the Gesher Al Hawadi School. What can their story teach the rest of us about living together in community?

May 10 - 10:30 AM: RE SUNDAY**"Our Thanks and Praise"****Rev. Roger Peltier & Ginny Griesé**

On this morning honoring our Religious Education Teachers and celebrating the Bridging Ceremony of **Lauren Redifer** and remembering our Mothers, we'll offer our love and gratitude for the people in our lives. NOTE: We will have our annual flower exchange at this service. Please bring a few of your favorite flowers to share. And, while you're here, please plan to participate in the *Standing Women Project* immediately after this service (see www.StandingWomen.org for more info about the project).

May 17 - 10:30 AM: NEW MEMBER SUNDAY**"Not So Uncommon"****Brock Leach**

A few years ago we UUs marketed ourselves as the "Uncommon Denomination". In some ways it fits. We surely do embrace an uncommon diversity of religious perspective, thought and expression. And when it comes to standing strongly on the side of human worth and dignity, we have an uncommon history of which to be proud. But within our faith, we share much more in common than the slogan implies, and we have much that we are compelled to share with others—in our deeply held values, our focus on life in the present world, and our strong faith in human agency. One of my professors, David Bumbaugh, even argues that we share a core UU theology. Might the "uncommon denomination" really have a common core? What would it mean if we could proclaim it?

May 24 - 10:30 AM: "Thirsty Spirits"**Rev. Roger Peltier**

Memorial Day is traditionally offered in remembrance of fallen soldiers. Whatever we think about peace or preemptive war, we must consider the human costs of these actions. Perhaps our remembering is the beginning of a peaceful solution.

May 31 - 10:30 AM: "Big Brother Blues"**Rev. Bonnie Devlin**

Rev. Devlin will speak on "keeping an eye on our civil liberties". She will also recognize the 60th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights and will honor the UU Service Committee in their work in the area of human rights.

SUNDAY FORUMS - 9:30**May 3****"Let's Review Our Seven Principles"****Moderator and Presenter: Fred Sargent**

The UUA's Commission on Appraisal is conducting a review of the UU beliefs, including our Seven Principles. All UU churches and members are invited to participate. We will review the history of the development of humanism and our Seven Principles within the Unitarian church and then discuss six proposed changes in the Seven Principles.

May 10**(Moderator and Presenter and Program to be announced)****May 17****No Title****Moderator and Presenter: Jim Chastain**

A discussion of the right-to-die movement, including changes occurring in public opinion as well as laws in the United States and other countries.

May 24**Moderator: Cliff Carlstedt
(Program to be announced)****May 31****Moderator: Leroy Sims
(Program to be announced)**RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION HAPPENINGS**May 3rd** Religious Exploration Classes Meet**May 10th** RE Sunday, Bridging Ceremony for **Lauren Redifer**
Mothers' Day, Flower Communion**May 17th** Re classroom parties
End of the year Beach Party for RE families, teachers and volunteers**May 24th** Sunday childcare begins for pre-K through 4th grade at 10:30 during service**May 31st** Sunday childcare during service (10:30-11:30)

ROGER'S RUMINATIONS



While doing some research for a sermon, I came across a group of questions from the Emergent Church tradition: "What is the bravest thing your church has done in the past year?" and, "What is one thing your church needs to focus on next?"

"Hmmm, great questions," I said to myself. I think we UUs could learn something by regularly asking ourselves the kinds of questions that honor the past and look to the future. After all, don't we agree with James Luther Adams that "an unexamined faith is not worth having?"

Then I got to a third question: "What is your church's spiritual DNA?" (In the case of the Emergent Church, "DNA" stands for: Divine Truth, Nurturing Relationships, and Apostolic Mission.) "There's the rub," I thought, "Language like that isn't very useful for us." But maybe I'm wrong about that.

When my mentor, John Gibbons, preached my ordination sermon, he charged me to go forth into the ministry by honoring the "unmistakable DNA" of the parishes I have served, by honoring my religious past and future hopes together.

Thinking more about this, I realize the same charge awaits you—especially as we near the completion of my ministry with you and the beginning of an interim ministry. In fact, your new interim minister will be given the specific charge of looking at the past, the present and the future with you and many exciting things will emerge from that work.

Each of you carries within yourselves the unmistakable characteristics of your religious pasts, the spiritual vitality of this moment, and the seeds of the future. And, most important, each of you is a part of the DNA, the life-force that makes you who you are together: *You* are this church.

Though your DNA may not be a neat, six-word slogan that slips easily off the tongue, you are each related by a common quest for truth, by the spirit of love, and through prayerful service. That relationship has shaped the identity of Unitarianism and Universalism and this church for fifty odd years and is itself the very genesis of humility, justice and compassion.

To examine one's faith is to consider one's relationships and to strengthen them. Ours has been a good relationship with a proud past; I have loved being your minister. But, as you know, the past is only a foundation for the present and the future. In your present, there are two things emergent and eminent: First, this is a time of transition. And second, this is a time of unbound opportunity. The only question is: "To what will you give life?"

See you in church.

Love, **Rev. Roger**



Religious Exploration



By **Ginny Griesé, RE Director**

On March 21st. RE families gathered together at Colonial Oaks Park for a picnic. Everyone brought food to share, games to play and fun was had by all. As our "RE school year" slowly comes to a close we are hoping to have another fun family gathering. Our end of the year beach party will take place on May 17th after Sunday service. Hopefully all of our families can attend this event.

On Easter Sunday our younger children in grades Pre-K through 4th grade began their morning in the Sanctuary. The children were invited to come to the front of the Sanctuary and help to decorate our "Easter Tree." The congregation then sang them out as they carried their Easter Baskets and continued to their classrooms for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. A special thanks to the teen students who helped to hide the eggs during the service.

I hope that most of you have taken a few moments to read the notice that I placed on the glass enclosed bulletin board. We are very excited about the bridging ceremony that is taking place for **Lauren Redifer** on May 10th. I hope that everyone will join us that morning to officially welcome this lovely young woman into our community.

Finally, we are fast approaching the time when our classes are coming to an end and we are beginning our RE summer childcare program. Once again, we are asking for volunteers who might be able to give of their time a few Sundays during the summer, get to know our young children and help with childcare during the service. If you think you might be able to help out, please contact **Ginny Griesé** or **Mary Lou Keller**.

Birthdays: **Noah Braggalla** 5/25/05
Ben Redifer 5/27/94



FLOWERS

If you wish to donate flowers on Sunday morning to honor someone special in your life or celebrate a joyous occasion, please sign up on the form on the kiosk and call **Nancy Sciore** at 922-0243 so the flowers can be ordered.

Seminary Soundings: Plying the Depths of UU Ministerial Training by Brock Leach, Student Minister

One thing's true about crises - they really test our religious convictions. Whether the nation is being threatened with war or our families are being threatened by economic ruin, how we respond is a good measure of what we really stand for when push comes to shove. The current economic crisis is certainly one of those tests.

When under threat, we naturally experience a huge, understandable pull toward protection. Some part of our primeval being urges us to dig a hole, build a nest, bring the young back under our wing. We feel compelled to hunker down and ride out the storm. And, realistically, most of us don't have a financial choice—we have to do some hunkering down just to keep the lights on. The paradox of the human experience, though, is that our impulse to withdraw into ourselves comes at the exact moment when we need each other the most, the moment when we most need to reach out. It's as if the universe is administering a competency test to verify that we really do understand our fundamental interdependence.

Fortunately, our church members are passing the current test with flying colors. I'm heartened by stories of members and friends who have trusted our church community enough to honestly share their plight and seek help; and by those many good folk who have come out of the woodwork instantaneously to offer them assistance and shelter. How blessed are we to have members that trusting or with that kind of room in their hearts and homes! Their actions speak volumes for our religious convictions.

These times also demand the same kind of institutional response. Thanks to excellent stewardship, our church is in good financial shape. The strong response to the most recent pledge campaign and the continued giving of our members for social justice projects are signs that our members are responding to the crisis by reaching out. But as we go through the continued tough times ahead, we will be faced with hard choices and with natural forces that will draw our focus inward: we have members that are hurting and will need more support; we have current programs that need additional staffing; and we are faced with the costs and challenges of a new minister search. Yet we are also part of a larger community that needs us to be reaching out now more than ever. More than just our money, they need our "saving message"; they need our advocacy for justice; they need our good works. They need us to be vital, visible, engaged and inclusive. How will we navigate these choices? Perhaps by asking ourselves, first, how our choices as a church will make this a better world; and second how they will meet the needs of our church community and our own personal needs.

For me, the most fundamental conviction of Unitarian Universalism is that the choice between our own interests and our community interests is a false one. We have the audacity to suggest that people of different religious beliefs can unite in community and act on common convictions. We have a tradition that calls us to "help heal our world" as a means of "nurturing our spirits". And our great faith is that by building a society in which all people are valued and cared for, each of us will be cared for even more abundantly.

Brock



Annual Meeting Elects New Board and Passes Annual Budget

More than one hundred members turned out on Sunday March 29 to elect Church officers for 2009-2010 and to consider the annual Church budget.

Rev. Roger ushered in the new Board members with a ceremony that committed both the Board and the Congregation to work together for the good of the Church in the upcoming Church year. New Board officers are: President **Rick Sandler**, Vice President **Jim Craig**, Secretary **Dee Widder**, and Treasurer **Barbara DeMaio**. Board members at large are: **Dana Keller, Cathy Cyrus, Pat Liebert, Sue Moreland, Muriel Redifer** and **Joanne Curtis**.

The 2009-2010 church budget was presented by Finance Chair **Richard Happy** (ably assisted by a Power-Point presentation by **Klaus Obermeit**) and was approved as presented. The budget is available on the church website – click on Member's Corner.

Judi Hennard was recognized during the budget presentation for her work in refurbishing the four sanctuary stained glass windows. In addition to keeping the windows in good shape for posterity, she has saved the Congregation thousands of dollars, Thank you, Judi!

Incoming president **Rick Sandler** recognized the dedication and hard work of **Gail Colella**, our Church president for the last two years. She was presented with a courtyard chair inscribed with her name and a note of appreciation.

And finally, thanks to outgoing Board member **Louise King**. Your dedication and enthusiasm is much appreciated!



CARING COMMITTEE

Below there are two new services of which we are aware to help seniors in their daily living:

ITNSarasota.com provides rides 24/7 by appointment. You may also trade your car for transportation dollars. There is an enrollment fee and a minimum taxi fee of \$10. Call 364-7530.

Call Andre is a service provided by the Senior Friendship Center. They will send a visitor for you to get to know and chat with...as a buddy system too...Call 365-0722 - registration is required.

Do you know of someone who has a Caring need? transportation to doctor? meals? buddy? companionship? Please call **Dee Widder** at 377-9028.

ZIP CODE GATHERINGS ARE COMING!

Wouldn't it be nice to get to know the church members and friends who live in your zip code? This could help with car pooling, caring and social events. We will be kicking off the first of many zip code gatherings in the summer...keep in touch!

The Membership Committee

The UUCS FIRST FRIDAY FREETHINKERS MEETING

The May meeting of the First Friday Freethinkers will be on **THURSDAY, APRIL 30th**. (Note the change of date. The speaker is a co-host of True Talk which airs Friday mornings on WMNF 88.5 at 11 a.m. to noon just before Amy Goodman's Democracy Now program.)

The group will meet at the UU Church of Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Road in the Jefferson Room at 10 a.m., as usual. **The day of the week has been changed just for this month.**

Our program presenter will be Samar Dahmash-Jarrah. Her topic will be: "The Question of Palestine: Origins and Solutions." In addition to her radio show, Samar teaches Geo Politics of the Middle East at the Honors College at the University of South Florida. She has travelled widely in the Middle East and is the author of Arab Voices Speak To American Hearts. Her philosophy is illustrated by her statement: "I believe communication between peoples breaks down barriers." Following her talk there will be a Question and Answer period and a discussion. For further information, call **Tom Dente** at 921-1598.



WHERE YOUR UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SERVICE COMMITTEE MONEY GOES

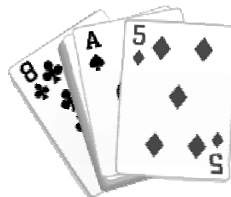
On the Sunday following the Florida District Conference, the collection plate was given to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's (UUSC) aid to Gaza mission.

Contributors to UUSC projects often wonder where, exactly, their contributions go. In the case of Gaza there has been some question as to how any aid is getting through. Later one of our members asked about the UUSC sponsoring a Just Journey to Gaza. We received the following reply from Katherine Wallace at our Boston Office.

The Gaza Humanitarian Crisis Fund remains open for donations (https://secure2.convio.net/uusc/site/Donation2?df_id=1500&1500.donation=form1). We are partnering with the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) to support youth involvement in the regeneration of their communities via an innovative initiative called YouthBank.

YouthBank is a formal way for young people in Gaza to make decisions about how resources can help their communities recover from the recent war. Teams of youth, with adult coaching, manage small grants to community-based groups focused on neighborhood clean-up and simple repairs to make people's homes habitable again. The youth will prioritize single-parent families, families whose breadwinners have been injured, and elderly and ill neighbors. YouthBank's work occurs right at the street-level, and will reach people who might otherwise be overlooked. At the same time, young people involved in this work find positive ways to lead the recovery of their communities."

Sue Sherman, UUSC Chair



BRIDGE FOR FUN

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at **7:00 PM** in the Jefferson Room at the church. Call me and join us to enjoy fun bridge, usually 2 or 3 tables.

Mira Frederick 921-6594

President's Corner



For my first column as President of the church, I had written something that I wanted to talk to you about. I had it already to go. Then I received the news that largely due to personal and financial reasons, Rev. Roger had decided to move back to Rhode Island. Sometimes you have to adjust your plans, and this occasion is no different; I will submit my original column next month, but this month I want to address Roger's decision.

Roger has given us two years filled with energy, enthusiasm, and commitment. While our work together has been demanding and not always easy, it has indeed been productive. I can speak for all of us when we thank Roger for his ministry and for all that we have all learned from each other. Although I wish he could stay with us longer, I know that his, and John's, decision to return to New England must have been a difficult one to make, and one which we must all respect. Along with missing Roger, we will also miss John's wonderful voice in the choir and his delightful personality.

I had not expected to start my year as President with the task of finding an interim minister. However, that is what has occurred, so it is what I and the Board of Trustees will have to deal with. I can assure you that our excellent Board will assume this task with care. Fortunately, several Trustees have been through the process of an interim minister search, so they will be of enormous help as we move forward.

The most important thing I want to convey is that we will survive and prosper. We are a strong church and a pragmatic one. We will find a good interim minister, and we will begin the search for a settled one, always seeking your input along the way. With a minister's departure also comes an opportunity to assess what we have learned from our "shared ministry" and to determine our future needs. Meanwhile, Roger has assured the Board of Trustees that he will be available and will perform his duties through the end of July so we will have plenty of time for leave-taking.

I had looked forward to working with Roger this year; unfortunately that is not to be. But I am grateful for all he has given to us. I do look forward to working with you as we begin this new journey. Please feel free to call me with any thoughts you might have about the church. I need and want your advice.

Rick Sandler

COVENANT GROUPS

Covenant Groups provide a fun and interesting way to become involved in our church community. The format of the group meetings, generally held twice a month, offers an opportunity to explore interesting topics and also an opportunity to develop friendships since you meet with the same small number of people. The groups' covenants or agreements include sharing the time for discussion fairly and respectfully listening to the ideas of everyone on the topic the group has selected to discuss at that meeting. Some of the topics suggested by the UUA are: Living Simply, What I Believe, Service, Living an Intentional Life. Two new groups are beginning and each has a couple of openings. Call **Gayle Van Peenen 907-6012** or **Julie Leach 312-9774** for information.

GOOD NEWS FROM THE ENDOWMENT FUND

This month, the Endowment Fund received a generous \$5,000 bequest from the Estate of beloved former member **Jean Hoagland**, who passed away last summer. This bequest will help the fund to recover from the difficult period of 2008 during which, despite excellent management by the UUA endowment committee in Boston, suffered a serious capital loss.

Now is an excellent time to make donations to the endowment fund, because many classes of investments are now "on sale" at bargain prices, and with our congregation's increased reliance upon the endowment fund as a potential source of emergency funds in the event of a hurricane or other catastrophe, the fund has become more important than ever as "insurance" that our beloved church will remain vibrant and welcoming for many years to come. Please be sure to remember the UU Church of Sarasota Endowment Fund in your will and your estate planning.

Jim Keeney, Treasurer

MAC USERS GROUP



The fledgling McIntosh Users Group will meet in the South Wing on Thursday, April 30th from 10 to 12. Bring your computer. Call **June Brasgalla** at 379-6071 for further information.

INTERWEAVE

NEWS FROM INTERWEAVE



Celebrating our Diversity

Interweave Sarasota is part of a nation-wide group of straight and gay people who celebrate their diversity and campaign to foster understanding and bring a halt to hate crimes and prejudice. We explore diverse issues and extend our efforts beyond GLBT issues to become more inclusive and welcoming of all diversity.

We meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 12:30 pm and enjoy a potluck at the home of one of our members. The April Potluck/Meeting was at the home of **Louise King** and the May Potluck/Meeting will be at the home of **Jody McBrien** on May 17.

The Gulfcoast Affirming Interfaith Network (GAIN) service, "Standing on the Side of Hope", will be held at 7:30 p.m. on May 7 at the Unity Church of Sarasota on Proctor Road. The offering will be donated to the UU Church of Sarasota's "Shoulder to Shoulder" Habitat for Humanity house, currently under construction. In addition, members of Interweave will be ushering at this event.

Interweave Movie Night continues in May at the home of **Wilda Meier** on Wednesday, May 20. We gather at 6:00 p.m. for a social hour with the movie starting at 7:00 p.m. May movie title will be announced. We enjoyed "The Lost Language of Cranes" in April.

Interweave members will also staff a booth at the Sarasota PrideFest 2009 at the Van Wezel on May 9th. We will represent the UU Church and Interweave with flyers, flags, and information about our church. Thanks to all who will work on this.

Members of Interweave are reminded to check the work schedules for the Shoulder to Shoulder Project, so we may continue our contributions to that effort.

Ron Brown, Chair

ECUADOR- HIGHS AND LOWS

Dorothy Conlon will share views from her recent month in Ecuador, from the Andes down to the Amazon basin. It's a diverse and stunning country. Slide show in the Sanctuary is at noon on Sunday, May 3, 2009.



AMONG OURSELVES

Hats off to **Nina Boardman**, who journeyed last month to India with a group of doctors, where they provided health care to indigent families.

Congratulations to **Joan Verizzo** who recently retired from the Sarasota Sheriff's Department after 20 years of service.

Glad to see **David Jemison** healing after a major car accident. Car was totaled, fortunately he was not.

Our deepest sympathy to **Helen Laughlin** on the passing of her husband, Dick Croup.

Brock Leach recently passed his interview with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee's Regional Subcommittee on Candidacy (RSCC) and was granted official status as a "Candidate for Unitarian Universalist Ministry". This means Brock has taken his next step on the way to fulfilling all the requirements of his Meadville Lombard program.

PANEL DISCUSSION

Sunday, May 17th at 3 p.m.

**At the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota
REASON AND LEGISLATION**

**Co-Sponsored by our Social Justice Committee and
Americans United for Separation of Church and State**

Hear these excellent panelists:

Rabbi Larry Mahrer, Temple Beth El, Bradenton

**Barbara Zdravecky, Executive Director,
Planned Parenthood of SW FL**

Nadine Smith, Executive Director, Equality Florida

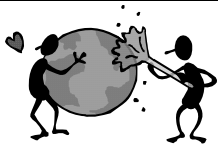
**Keith Fitzgerald, Florida State Senator,
14th Legislative District**

Admission is Free

CONTACT DEADLINES

The *Contact* deadline is always the **3rd Thursday** of the month unless you are otherwise informed. Next month's deadline is **Thursday, May 21st at 12 noon.**

Please e-mail your articles to contactnews@verizon.net or mail to Gail Colella. Thank you!



Earth Evangelists 55

Covenant, *archaic*, "a promise to the Earth"

Sometimes the Green Team's mission is to share bad news in hopes of inspiring action, but Mr. Green Jeans has been pointing out *good* green news to me lately.

Some of you recall the World War II conservation effort known as the victory garden. It's time to do it again. Lo and behold, our First Lady has dug up part of the White House lawn and planted vegetables, with the help of fifth graders and the urging of countless American gardeners. Eleanor Roosevelt and 20 million other gardeners grew 30-40% of American vegetables back in 1943. We could covenant to do this. It matters to our own health, and it matters to the planet if our food doesn't have to travel the now-average 1600 miles to our tables. Save the gasoline for something else. That's one.

Second, President Obama is acting on his promise to address climate change. Each week brings some new evidence that our country is becoming "powerfully, fervently engaged" in the global climate negotiations. The political climate at last permits science-based policy and governance.

Finally, here's some concrete good news. The stuff that holds concrete together is cement, and cement accounts for about 5% of human-caused CO₂ emissions. A ton of Portland cement releases a ton of carbon dioxide! Life without concrete and cement is practically unimaginable. But engineers are experimenting with a new cement that, like corals, sequesters rather than releases CO₂. This promising example of *biomimicry* copies natural processes for a more sustainable human life.

That's three bits of good news. There are lots more. What if we all celebrated the ancient holiday of May Day, or Beltane, by delighting one another with a bit of good news?

For the Green Team,

Lea Hall



SPANISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

This group is for people whose Spanish is rusty and who want to practice conversation. We meet in the Library at 5:30 on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. For more information, call **Mira Frederick** at 621-6594.

Happy May Birthday to:

- Betty Milligan 1
- Alice Boudreau 2
- Arline Leven 2
- Danielle Green 3
- Alison Hannan 4
- Elena Vizvary 4
- Pia Carlstedt 5
- Barbara Sandler 6
- Alex Davis Shaw 7
- Adele Fox 7
- Kay Groessl 8
- Dominic Martia 9
- Mitch Zavon 9
- George Brening 10
- Gail Perr Czina 12
- Scott Bartholomew 13
- Jack Sims 14
- Kate Brady 15
- Cornelia Einsweiler 17
- Chet Chmielewski 19
- Diane Nichols 19
- Ellen Cone 20
- Joan Verizzo 20
- Chuck Meyers 23
- Marlene Blood 25
- Jo Horst 26
- Richard Czina 27
- Ellie Altman 28
- Mary Hoffman 30



Happy May Anniversary to:

- Ruth & Art Haas 5
- Ellen Cone & Bob Graetz 12
- Louise & John Stinespring 20
- Forrest & Alex Davis Shaw 28



Welcome!

New Members

Virginia Burlingame
275 Herons Run Drive
Sarasota, FL 34232
vburlinga@aol.com

Ilene Gillispie
5800 Bay Shore Road
Box # 340
Sarasota, FL 34243
703-509-8089
ilene.gillispie@ncf.edu

Carol Turner
Shawn Davidson
1381 Harbor Drive
Sarasota FL 34239
312-5112
cjturn22@aol.com
ccgs@aol.com



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Homeless and Hungry in Sarasota

The unemployment rate and economic recession has affected Sarasota more than many parts of our country bringing our unemployment rate up to 10.8% according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics February 2009 data. Of course this is news you can read every day in the paper, but what can we as a church community do to help. We can of course reach out to each other, and those of us who have enough can share with others. Much of our work as a Social Justice Committee has focused on homelessness and housing needs in our community. We have the Habitat For Humanity home we're helping to build as an interfaith project; we have worked to redevelop our public housing in a way which listens to the voices of and serves the needs of current public housing residents; we have supported Family Promise, an interfaith homeless shelter project; and we serve meals at Salvation Army each week.

This month, one of our projects, Family Promise, has had to close temporarily due to lack of funding, another casualty of the recession. The Family Promise Board is taking the summer to regroup, fundraise and reorganize to try to restart the local chapter; we will stay in contact with them along the way and will provide what support we can. In September, we will update you on the prospects for restarting this program. In the meantime, the Social Justice Committee has decided to explore with the Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness, our local coalition of homeless service providers, other models and opportunities to help homeless families in the area. Homeless families are an underserved but growing population because most homeless services were initially set up to serve the homeless single male which is the more public face of homelessness. But homeless families are in our community, as our public schools are well aware. Every public school in this county has chronically or temporarily homeless students, and the county assigns homeless service coordinators to the public schools to assist these families with the special needs their housing situation brings.

Along with these economic conditions, hunger is increasing in our area and the All Faiths Food Bank is seeing a growing need for food assistance. The summer brings additional food needs as children are home and not receiving Federal free lunch or breakfast at school. Our Share-the-Plate collection this month on April 26th will go to the All Faiths Food Bank to assist with their summer food needs. If you would like to contribute to this collection, but will not be at church, you may send in a check made out to the church—just write "Food Bank" in the memo line, and we'll get it to the food bank.

We are a generous community and much needed in this area. We thank all of you for your generous contributions

during our church year. Through our Share-the-Plate collections during the past fiscal year we gave \$18,733 to worthy needs in our community.

In service and community,

Julie Leach and Susan Hallock
Social Justice co-chairs



Arts Council

News & Views

Join us in The Gallery after the Church service, Sunday, May 3, for an opening reception for artist **Micole Bredean**, 11:30 AM until 1 PM that Sunday. With this exhibit, we revert to a two month schedule. This exhibit will be displayed through July 1. All Gallery exhibits can also be viewed during office weekdays 10 am - 2 pm, Monday thru Friday.

Bredean was born in Hungary in 1940, immigrating to the United States in 1964. Today in Sarasota, Bredean maintains a stylistic momentum established as a sculptor, having studied with Lois Montoya in Palm Beach. Her paintings tend to have a dense formal design, a sense of Byzantine color and iridescent surfaces. Her sophisticated images of the female form in the context of love and the ebb and flow or relationships are as fascinating as they are sensuous. Her art depicts much more than "just another pretty face", she quotes. There is a keen intelligence, intrigue, mystery and indefinable emotions reflected in her paintings. The viewer is engaged and feels compelled to conjure up and weave intricate stories of speculation. Come meet the artist May 3 and view these gorgeous paintings and prints.

Notice: All Church artists wishing to have a full exhibit in the Church Gallery during 2010, are invited to submit work samples for acceptance before June 1, 2009 for review. Contact Cathy Cyrus at cyr603@yahoo.com to be included in the review. Do submit digital photos of your work to her, if you have them. Church members are always given priority. Artists may exhibit every two years. The South Wing was designed as a gallery to help provide for artistic expression and appreciation within the church.

The next regular Arts Council meeting is Saturday, May 2, 2009 in the Gallery. Join us, please. Phone or see **Judi Hennard**, 373.0530 or any member.

Judi Hennard, Chair

SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK

Sunday, May 10th, After the Service

Please bring a dish to share with six to eight people. We like to encourage our visitors to stay and get acquainted with us, therefore we do need all the food that everyone brings. So, if you plan to stay for pot luck, **please bring a dish!** Hope you will **ALL** come out to the May Second Sunday Pot luck and then join us for **Women Standing for Peace** in front of the church on Fruitville Road at 1 p.m.

Tom Cook



The church Second Sunday Pot Luck lunch is May 10th. I hope that many of you will stay after lunch and join us at the front of the church near Fruitville Road to hold our signs and ring our bells for peace. StandingWomen is a world-wide campaign for peace for our children and the seven generations to follow. We want every child born to grow up with enough to eat, clean water to drink, free from the fear of war and destruction.

It will take only five minutes of your time for all women and the men, too, to join with us at one p.m. where, after ringing our bells, we stand in silence for five minutes with people around the world. Some day, enough people the world over will be standing for peace and war will be a thing of the past.

Go on www.StandingWomen.org and watch the video from 2007. You will see our church group very early in the video standing by the side of Fruitville Road with our sign.

Please join us!
If you have a small bell, bring it to ring it!
May 10th at 1 p.m.
After the Second Sunday Pot Luck!
Bring a dish, eat with friends, we'll come together at the front of the church on Fruitville Road!



From The Garden Gate



Dr. Dick sent word that he was too busy to do his column this month. He will return in May. we hope!



UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY



Marie Davids
 3617 Schwalbe Drive
 Sarasota FL 34235
 954-0261
 302-2199 (cell)
mariedavids@yahoo.com

New e-mail addresses for :

George & Phyllis Brening
gbrening@gmail.com

Deborah Thurber
thurberdeborah@yahoo.com

Roy Ingham
drroyjohn@yahoo.com



"Peace is our gift to each other."

- Elle Wiesel

Unitarian Universalist Association



Nurture your spirit. Help heal our world.