

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SARASOTA
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SUNDAY SERVICE: 10:30 a.m.

May 24, 2009 — No. 2009-5

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

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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**June 7 - 10:30 AM: "One Love" - Rev. Roger Peltier**

What would you do if someone gave you a blank check? Would you spend it? And how? And what might a gift like that have to do with Unitarian Universalism? One colleague I admire has some interesting ideas about these connections.

June 14 - 10:30 AM: "The Days of Our Lives" - Rev. Roger Peltier

I have heard it said, "It matters how you finish." The nearing end of the church year and the conclusion of my ministry here at UUCS seems an opportune time to take stock of how we've spent our time and to reflect on what comes next for me and for you.

June 21 - 10:30 AM: "Generation G" - Brock Leach

History suggests that times of economic crisis have an unexpected silver lining—they redirect talented young people from pursuing an exclusively material life to pursuing the common good. And there's early evidence that's happening with young adults today. Imagine what the world will be like if we encourage "Generation Generosity" to thrive.

June 28 - 10:30 AM: "Religion That Puts the Squeeze on You." - Rev. Dee Graham

When Florida Orange Juice made singer Anita Bryant their spokeswoman in the 1970s, she capitalized on the opportunity to target lesbian and gay families. The national campaign she spearheaded led to Florida's still-standing law against adoption by non-heterosexual adults. But it was also the first time LBGT families were ever acknowledged by the media as existing. Come learn about Florida's unique place in the pre-Harvey Milk story, and decide for yourself "What Jesus Would Do" about Anita Bryant and standing on the side of love?

Reverend Dee Graham is a true Florida native, born and raised in Bradenton. She attended Ballard Elementary and Manatee High schools in Bradenton. She earned a BS in Journalism from the University of Florida and is a former journalist with the Sarasota Herald-Tribune. During the 1980s, she and her family attended the Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota. When she left Sarasota to attend Starr King School for the Ministry at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California, she became the very first ministerial candidate to be sponsored by our church. She was ordained in North Carolina in 1993. She has served churches in Charlotte and Kernersville NC, Knoxville TN, and St. Petersburg FL. She currently serves as the ecumenical campus chaplain for Sarasota Campus Ministry at Ringling College of Art and Design, New College of Florida and The University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee, as well as the Florida State University programs at the Ringling Museum of Art. She received a MA in Mass Communication from USF St. Petersburg in December 2008.

SUNDAY FORUMS - 9:30

June 7

**"Great Satan vs. Axis of Evil"
Moderator and Presenter: John Foster**

Recently John Foster was a faculty adviser to a group of college students who visited the Iranian Interests Office in Washington, D. C. This office handles some of the functions of an embassy in the absence of diplomatic relations between our two countries. He will discuss the experience as well as a variety of other impressions of Iran in the hope of stimulating a lively, many-sided discussion.

June 14

"Organic Foods and Multiple Vitamins, What Do They Add To Our Health?"**Moderator and Presenter: Mitch Zavon**

These substances are increasingly used by many people in this country. Does research confirm their value? What is documented vs. what is advertised? Participants are invited to bring any information they may have to illustrate your opinion for or against use of organic foods, vitamins for routine use vs. specific needs, and any other foods used for health purposes.

June 21

**"Immigration: Attitudes and Perception"
Moderator and Presenter: Pia Carlstedt**

Growing numbers of Americans are increasingly concerned about immigration. Many believe that immigrants are a burden to the country on jobs, housing, the health care system and education. Others worry about the impact on cultural and American values. There are political shifts on how to fix the issues of legal and illegal immigration. Bring your ideas to the forum to discuss a broad range of immigration rather than one fixed, particular area.

June 28

**"Should We Be Afraid of Teachers' Unions?"
Moderator and Presenter: John Stinespring**

A former teacher union (NEA affiliate) president, collective bargainer and grievance spokesman will address the functions of unions in public schools.

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.

ROGER'S RUMINATIONS



It seems I find myself saying "thank you" a lot lately. And I find myself wanting to continue doing so. Maybe this is a natural part of leave-taking, of saying goodbye. Maybe it's because of all the ways you have reached out to me as I prepare to embark on my next adventure up north. Whatever the reason, I want only to express even more appreciation to you.

The very first words I ever offered as a preacher was the phrase, "ministry is gratitude expressed." I still believe that. I believe that each of us answers the question, "How lucky, or blessed, or touched am I?" when we offer our gratitude, when we say thank you. Gratitude is not just something spoken, but is something expressed by what we do, by our acting in the world. That's why hymn 128 remains one of my favorites; it reminds us that by our thanks and praise we build the common good, together.

I was vividly reminded of the elegant and profound power of a hearty "thank you" as I watched the *Lift Every Voice* kid's choir sing for us on Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday. Those kids sang their hearts out—giving us all they had—and they were so grateful for our support! We're good at support: we do a lot of it. Thank you for all the worthy and wonderful things you have done like that, time and again.

I heard the poet Maya Angelou say, "There's nothing greater than thank you; that's what you say to God." And so it is, by paying attention to such inspiration, that I want to say these words to you:

Thank you for your confidence and trust in me, for sharing yourselves so openly and willingly and warmly with me, for showing up fully and faithfully, week by week, and making my first solo ministry with you such a deep experience.

Thank you for the blessings of your hard work, for your dedication and skill on the projects for which we've worked on behalf of this church, like building a Habitat house. Thank you for your compassion and devotion to the cause of liberal religion and for wanting to make a difference in the world.

Thank you, my friends, thank you, to each of you, for the sweet expressions of ministry we've shared. The memory of these will remain with me always. All that is left to do is to say farewell with my deep and heartfelt appreciation, and to offer these familiar last words as my blessing to you:

*May you walk, always,
in the ways of truth, justice and love.
Let your living bless the world.
Thank you. Be well.*

With love and gratitude,
Rev. Roger Peltier



Religious Exploration



By **Ginny Griesé, RE Director**

RE Sunday brought a full service, with many people working together to make it a success. We were able to honor our teachers, mothers, have a flower communion and a moving bridging ceremony all in one service. **Lauren Redifer** gave a thoughtful statement about her faith and what it means to her. Her brother Ben played the piano for us as his sister walked across the church garden bridge. We all wish Lauren the very best as she enters college. May she always know that she is a valued member of our beloved community.

On May 17th, **Rev. Roger** visited classrooms to speak to the children about his decision to leave. He will be missed and promised to visit us in December. We will look forward to seeing him and sharing some of the holidays with him.

The religious exploration school year has quickly come to an end. Childcare for pre-K through 4th grade will take place in the teen room during service. Mary Kay Gafney has volunteered to be our coordinator for the summer program which will run from May 24th through August 23rd. If you have any questions or can volunteer a Sunday or two please contact her at mkgafney@yahoo.com. Our summer program cannot exist without volunteers, so please consider helping out.

Birthdays: **Liliana Burrow** 6/20/05
Caden Denslow 6/26/03



UPDATE YOUR DIRECTORY



New e-mail for:

Ron Brown/Logan Nicholson
tmovers1@comcast.net

New address and phone number for:

Kathy Laenhue
7282 55th Ave. E, Suite 144
Bradenton, FL 34203
773-7341
laenhue@msn.com

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

Have you noticed how much you can learn about something just by taking up a new vantage point? So it is with my transition from church member to minister. As I wrap up my two years of student ministry "praxis" this summer, I'm so grateful for the opportunity you all have afforded me to experience the church from a different location. With your love and support, I've journeyed far along the path to ministry.

I've learned just how central our church community is in the lives of its members. Like family, it's a relationship that goes to the heart of that which we hold most dear and so taps deeper wellsprings. Our raw emotions float closer to the surface than in our other affiliations. Church is a place where we can put on the table the deep-seated convictions, longings or unfinished business they can't express elsewhere, and we take the risk to do so in the faith that we will minister to each other with kindness and grace. Our obligation is only to hear each other out and to do our best to meet others wherever they are so that we can walk forward together.

I've learned that what you say in a sermon isn't necessarily what people hear. They hear it in the context of their own life and needs, and that's as it should be. Ministers, worship services and sermons are fodder for the venture that is each member's life and that is our community life; they have no inherent value apart from that.

I've learned that while thinking is a defining quality and highest order value in our tradition, feeling is probably more important when it comes to providing comfort, making room for hope and motivating change. Effective ministry integrates head, heart and hands.

I've learned that, especially in our church, members bring a vast array of life experiences and talents to the table. The role of the minister is less to "lead the flock" and more to facilitate the connection of congregants to their own calling and to fulfilling relationships in community, relationships that call forth their own gifts and enrich the whole.

I've learned that despite our much-vaunted diversity of beliefs and theologies, we actually hold much more in common than we publicly admit. We share a core understanding of how the world works and a vision of what our relationship to each other and the rest of creation should be like. We share a conviction that what matters most is how we act in the present life. I've also learned that it would be healthy for us to be in more open dialogue about these common tenets of our faith.

I've learned that good church governance is not about any one model or process; it's about practicing our values in real time by being transparent, inviting more people into leadership, and engaging in candid, respectful and open dialogue about our different aspirations for the church. Those practices are the currencies of trust-building which ultimately enable the church to fulfill its mission in the world.

Said another way, the most important thing I've learned in the last two years is that ministry is not about destinations, but about journeys. And I've learned that the journeys are easier, more enriching and more joyful when in the company of good friends who accept us for who we are, find learning and growth in our differences, and trust us at least as much as we trust ourselves.

Starting September 1, I will take up another entirely new vantage point. One of the UUA requirements for ministerial candidates is that they do an internship outside of their home church and under the supervision of a different fellowshiped minister. The idea is to further enlarge the future minister's field of vision and accelerate his or her growth. For me, that will take the form of a full time, full-year chaplain residency at Tampa General Hospital combined with a part-time internship at the UU Church of Tampa where I'll be doing some teaching and preaching on the side. Rev. Dr. Sara Zimmerman, minister of the Tampa church, will be my supervising minister. Consistent with the demands of two jobs and the expectations of the UUA, I will need to absent myself from our church for a full year.

There's no doubt that when I return home to UUCS in the fall of 2010, I'll have acquired some different perspectives and I will have traveled a bit further down the path to ministry. But please know that you've nurtured and supported me at the vulnerable beginning and sped me well on my way. I will pack along everything that you have taught me and this experience will continue to nourish me for the whole journey ahead. For all your gifts of love and caring I'll be forever in your debt.



Brock



"Peace is our gift to each other."

- Elie Wiesel

Unitarian Universalist Association



CARING COMMITTEE

Get well wishes to:

Bob Graetz who recently had surgery, **Shirley Foss** recovering from knee surgery, **Arthur Wachsman**, who had a fall and required surgery on his jaw, and to **Bob Fox** and **Harriet Frink** who have been ill. Cards would be appreciated.

Please complete your **Memorial Form** which can be found online.

Call **Dee Widder** at 377-9028 if you or someone you know has a Caring need. We provide short term meals, transportation and companionship.

Dee Widder, Chair

UUSC BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

Rev. Kathleen Korb, UUA Ministerial Settlement Representative, informed the Board as to the process of a Settled Minister Search.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by **Dick Happy**, Chair of the Finance Committee, in the absence of **Barbara DeMaio**, Treasurer. We have 22 fewer members than at this time last year, but our pledges have been paid at a higher rate (\$6880).

The lease for the West Wing has been signed by Kym Elder of the Island Village Montessori School and **Rick Sandler** and is on file in the office

Next board meeting on **Tuesday, June 16 at 7 PM**. All are invited.



KITCHEN SHOWER

A shower in the kitchen?? No, not a real shower, but we do have a need to equip our new kitchen with some basic items. The Finance Committee and the Board have authorized a "kitchen shower", an opportunity for interested church members and friends to donate money to make our new kitchen "user friendly".

We need drawer organizers, plastic bowls, drawer liners, a heavy duty electric can opener and much more (a total of over \$1600). You can help by writing a check to the church with "kitchen shower" in the memo line, or by looking at the list of items posted on the back of the kitchen door and picking out an item to buy (we may also be able to have the list on the Member's Only section of the Church website). We will make it easy for you by doing the shopping. If you have questions or suggestions, call me at 316-6499.

Diane Happy

The UUCS FIRST FRIDAY FREETHINKERS

June 5th Meeting - "Morality Without God"

Nontheists (i.e., freethinkers, secular humanists and other nonbelievers) are commonly accused of being *against* religion but *for* nothing. Even Paul Kurtz, the quintessential humanist, wrote in his editorial in the April 2009 issue of *FREE INQUIRY* that the humanist movement has so far failed to construct a comprehensive nontheistic basis for ethics and morality. But experience and history tell us that none of us is justified in claiming that belief or disbelief in a supernatural deity gains one the moral high ground. The existential challenge for humans at all stages of the theistic-nontheistic spectrum is to evolve moral and ethical worldviews that can tame the shared inhumanities that threaten human future. This session will focus on claims that there may be an evolutionary, universal sense of right and wrong in the human mind that can be nurtured to supply such needed worldviews. Primary sources will be Marc Hauser's 2006 book, *MORAL MINDS*, and Phil Zuckerman's 2008 book, *SOCIETY WITHOUT GOD*. **Jim Craig**, a member of our Church and of the First Friday Freethinkers group, will be the presenter.. The session will be held at 10:00 am on Friday, June 5 in the Jefferson Room.

LADIES WILL LUNCH

Join all Ladies of the church on Saturday, June 6 at noon for a potluck luncheon in the Jefferson Room. There will be no signup, just jot it on your calendar and come.



Mira Frederick and Dee Widder



President's Corner



This has been a very busy month at UUCS. As I write to you, I am reminded of the fact that we are in a time of transition. We are in the process of saying goodbye to **Rev. Roger Peltier**.

As Roger prepares to depart, many of us have had time to reflect on his ministry. While it was only a brief period of two years, it was also a time of growth and learning, for Roger and for us as a congregation. Roger has made many friends here at UUCS; these relationships will be sustained as he and John move back to Rhode Island. In order to celebrate Roger's ministry, we are planning a farewell celebration on June 7th, immediately following the Sunday service. Please plan to attend. The co-chairs of the farewell committee: **Jeanie Craig, Joanne Curtis, and Louise King** are working on this now. More details will follow shortly.

This is also a time of transition for **Brock Leach**, our student minister, parishioner, and friend. As part of his Meadville Lombard ministerial program, Brock will be an intern at Tampa General Hospital. He will also be spending many Sundays at the UU Church of Tampa. While we will see less of Brock this coming year, I know all of us are grateful for the wonderful year we have spent together. Thank you Brock for inspiring sermons, and for the generous amount of time and talent you have given us. We will miss having you with us this coming year. Please come back as often as possible!

Transitions also bring new changes and opportunities. And I am pleased to offer one. Starting in early August, the Rev. Margret O'Neill will become our interim minister. I am delighted to welcome Rev. O'Neill to our beloved community. She is a gifted minister who will bring many skills to us as she assumes her duties. The Interim Task Force worked with the UUA headquarters in Boston. Our goal was to find the best interim minister for this church. We considered 13 candidates. We rejected 7 as not being suitable for us. We interviewed 6 candidates in depth. We reviewed the material they submitted to us, we listened to their sermons, checked their references. The Task Force came to the unanimous conclusion that Rev. O'Neill was the right minister to meet our needs. We're lucky to get her – she had two other churches negotiating for her services. And as a special piece of serendipity, it turns out that Brock Leach knows Rev. O'Neill from their work together at Meadville Lombard. Brock did not know that we were considering Rev. O'Neill for the interim minister position, but when he learned of this, he strongly endorsed our recommendation that she be hired. And I want to thank the Interim Task force (**Dee Widder, Pat Liebert, Cathy Cyrus, and Diane Happy**) for an extraordinary job; they logged hundreds of hours working to ensure that we would find an outstanding minister.

So as we say farewell to Roger, we will transition to a new period for UUCS. There are many challenges ahead. Finding a settled minister will be one of them. But I remain confident that we are off to a strong start with Rev. O'Neill's ministry. I know you will welcome her as she joins our church family.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for your support during this time of transition. I have received many emails and telephone calls. I value your advice and want to know your concerns.

Rick Sandler

THE ENDOWMENT CORNER

At its May 5th meeting, the Endowment Fund board elected the following officers for the current church year:

- Charlie Peirce**, President
- Jim Craig**, Vice President
- Tam Milton**, Secretary
- Jim Keeney**, Treasurer

Other voting members of the board are:

- Barbara DeMaio** (Treasurer of the church)
- Janis Williams**

The president of the board and the minister serve as ex officio members of the EF board.

At the May meeting the Board also voted to transfer all funds now invested in the UU Common Endowment Fund to our own self-managed account. This will allow greater control of fund availability and allow for self-management of investment risk. Initially, it is expected that most of the fund will be invested in certificates of deposit.

SPEAKER AT 2002 ROSE FRANK LECTURE DIES



Leonard Shlain, who many may remember was our Rose Frank lecturer in 2002, has died in San Francisco, California. Dr. Shlain, was a best-selling author and a world-famous surgeon. He was a pioneer in the field of laparoscopic surgery. A fascinating man and an interesting speaker, he brought intelligence and humor to his presentation for our church family and the many others who gathered with us in our sanctuary to hear him speak. Dr. Shlain, one of the great minds of our day and a man with myriad interests, will be missed in many circles.

INTERWEAVE



Celebrating our
Diversity

NEWS FROM INTERWEAVE

Interweave Sarasota is part of a nationwide 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 May Potluck/Meeting was at the home of **Jody McBrien**. Our thanks to Jody, who also arranged for a guest speaker. The June Potluck/Meeting (June 21st) will be announced in the Order of Service.

The Gulfcoast Affirming Interfaith Network (GAIN) service, "Standing on the Side of Hope", was held on May 7 at the Unity Church of Sarasota on Proctor. The offering of more than \$1000 was donated to the UU Church of Sarasota's "Shoulder to Shoulder" Habitat for Humanity house, currently under construction. In addition, members of Interweave ushered at this event and members of our church also sang in choirs which added greatly to the service.

Interweave members staffed a booth at the Sarasota PrideFest 2009 at the Van Wezel on May 9th. We represented the UU Church and Interweave with flyers, banners, and information about our church. Thanks to all who worked on this.

Interweave Movie Night continues in June back at the home of **Ron Brown** and **Logan Nicholson** on June 17th. "Prayers for Bobby" will be shown if available. Check order of service.

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

Ron Brown, Chair

SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCK

Sunday, June 14th, 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 June Second Sunday Pot luck

Jam Cook

AMONG OURSELVES

Congratulations to **Bill Geller** on his election as president of the Sarasota Association of Realtors.

Best wishes to our graduates, **Lauren Redifer**, who graduated from Booker High School and will be attending Virginia Tech, and **Brittany Gray**, who received her associates degree from Manatee Community College and plans to continue at USF.

Congratulations to **Pat Liebert**, recently honored as a "woman sensitive to the needs of every woman" by the Women of Light of the West Coast Center for Human Development.

Best wishes to **Kate Brady**, who is moving to California. We'll miss you, Kate!

ENDOWMENT GIFT RECEIVED

UUCS is pleased to announce that it has received an endowment gift of \$274,000 under annuities established many years ago by Robert F. Lexow, our president in 1959-60.

Soon after he became president of the Fellowship, Lexow obtained an offer of a partial gift of the current church land on Fruitville Rd. The offer required the Fellowship, which had been formed in 1952 as The Unitarian Fellowship of Sarasota, to become a non-profit corporation identifying itself as a church. The Fellowship quickly incorporated as The Unitarian Church of Sarasota, Inc. and acquired the land. Lexow also led the installation of Rev. Karl Nielson as the church's first part-time minister, and the selection of church member Ralph Twitchell, a member of the nationally recognized Sarasota School of Architecture, as original architect of record of our sanctuary and classrooms.

With the annuities, which matured on Lexow's death in January 2009 at age 94, Robert Lexow once again earned our gratitude for his care, generosity and foresight.

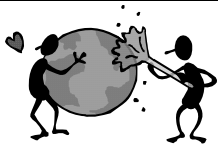
In the near future we will have an appropriate ceremonial expression of our appreciation of this urgently needed expansion of our endowment support.

CONTACT DEADLINES

The **Contact** deadline is always the **3rd Thursday** of the month unless you are otherwise informed. Next month's deadline is:

Thursday, June 18th at 12 noon.

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



Earth Evangelists 56

Peace and Intimacy On the Farm

Have you ever washed your lover's hair? Or had your lover wash yours? It's an amazingly simple, yet enjoyable experience, either way. I wasn't expecting the pleasure when it happened.

People are curious about **Lea's** and my life on her Wisconsin farm. What's it like, living off the grid, no running water, no sewage, no electricity, out in the country? What's it like? Peaceful and intimate.

Peaceful because we're forced to follow Ma Nature's rhythm, imposed by the rising and setting sun. "Why do you get up so early," we've been asked. Well, when the sun goes down at 8, and you don't have electricity, you might as well go to bed. Which means that when the sun rises at 5, you're rested. Oh, we could listen to the radio at night. But the news is the same at 9 pm as it is at noon, so why not just go to bed.

Intimate because hygiene takes place in common areas. When we get hot water by heating a pot of it on the stove, we don't carry it into the cold bathroom. We put a tub next to the wood stove in the kitchen/dining room/cabin and pour the warm water on each other. It takes more than two hands, so we shampoo each other's hair, etc. (Like they do in the western movies). Ticks are a serious danger, so before we go to bed we give each other a complete visual dermal inspection, which means we check each other's skin for the pesky critters.

There's lots of work to do here, but the stress is gone. If your life is too stressed, try hitting the main breaker in your garage. Doing without electricity sure makes life simpler. Without TV and artificial light, peace sets in.

Unexpected side benefits of living a simpler life.

Klaus Obermeit, Guest Columnist for the Green Team

Happy June Birthday to:

| | |
|-------------------|----|
| Herb Grover | 1 |
| Marie Keeney | 2 |
| Kay Dyer | 3 |
| Virginia Corcoran | 6 |
| Shawn Davidson | 6 |
| Jean Wieloch | 6 |
| Mary Hough | 8 |
| Alma Manley | 8 |
| Sally Nelson | 8 |
| Shirley Foss | 9 |
| Sue Moreland | 9 |
| Ann Liggett | 9 |
| Sara Anderson | 10 |
| Kathy Laenhue | 10 |
| June Snyder | 12 |
| Al Kelley | 15 |
| Fritz Wallace | 15 |
| LaVonne Stocco | 16 |
| Eva Frank | 18 |
| Jan Dorsett | 20 |
| Jane Epes | 22 |
| Joan Athman | 23 |
| Logan Nicholson | 26 |
| Doris O'Hara | 26 |
| Chris Sensenig | 26 |
| Ann Sullivan | 28 |
| Paul Lewis | 30 |



Happy June Anniversary to:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Anne & George Balekdjian | 2 |
| June & Don Brady | 4 |
| Velma & George Clemence | 5 |
| Ruth & Ray Agnew | 6 |
| Eugenie & John Sheerar | 6 |
| Betty & Bill Cummings | 15 |
| Dennis Shaw & "Pete" Peterson | 15 |
| Jane Shannon & Paul Lewis | 20 |
| Rina & Ed Silverstein | 22 |
| Kay & Barry Dyer | 23 |
| Jane & Allan Grundy | 23 |
| Julie & Brock Leach | 24 |
| Betty & Mitch Zavon | 24 |
| Phyllis & Bob Meredith | 28 |



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.



New Members

Gregory & Emily Hite
 4510 45th Ct
 Sarasota 34234
 685-6930
 gregoryhite@gmail.com



SOCIAL JUSTICE

Summer Volunteer Opportunities

If you are staying in town this summer, we have several summer volunteer activities to involve you. If you are interested in these or other opportunities, come and talk with us at the Social Justice table on Sunday morning—we know lots of agencies which need help, and will point you in the right direction. If you have bored kids at home, they can get involved, too, at some of the opportunities—just check with us.

Planned Parenthood: Planned Parenthood has administrative volunteer opportunities, most of which involve helping out on an occasional basis, and include computer work, clerical work, helping in the finance department, stuffing envelopes, and clinic based opportunities, which have been divided into 'Level 1', which would require a commitment from volunteers of 3-4 hours per month and involve a little training, and 'Level 2' which will require quarterly training (including for previous volunteers) and a commitment to a regular shift of 7 hours at a time.

Habitat for Humanity: Come work on our Habitat Shoulder-to-Shoulder House(May 30th is our next snack day)—lots of painting jobs, now: We are painting the interior of the home now, and you can work any Saturday or Thursday morning—come get details at the Social Justice Table. It's shaping up to be a really spectacular home for one deserving family. Speaking of which, many of us were thrilled to meet our homeowner, Latoya Robinson, a couple of weeks ago. Along with full-time work, being a young mother to Antwanique, age 2, and going to school for her LPN, Latoya has already begun her "sweat equity hours" by volunteering in the Habitat ReStore and at her home. If you want to stay out of the heat, Habitat has volunteer opportunities in their ReStore, and in the office.

Salvation Army: We continue to serve dinner on Wednesday and lunch on Friday throughout the summer, and many of our regular volunteers go on vacation, so you will be needed.

Join the Social Justice committee! We are busy researching some new ways to be involved in the community (especially support for the homeless), and would love your input. Our **next meeting is June 9th at noon in the South Wing.** We look forward to seeing you there.

In community, **Julie Leach & Susan Hallock**
Co-Chairs, Social Justice Committee



From The Garden Gate

Dr. Dick, the Garden Doc, who thinks he knows much but knows little, surveyed his plant kingdom with a degree of satisfaction. Recent rains had rapidly reduced the raw rampant aridity, rewarding and rejuvenating the parched recipients. (Diane looked over his shoulder as he was typing on his computer, gently remarking, "Alliteration is nice and all, but aren't you getting a bit carried away?" Dr. Dick didn't think so.)

Sarasota had gone almost six weeks without rain when Dr. Dick left for a brief visit with his grandchildren. Many of his valued plants were showing stress from the lack of water. The Tuesday morning gardening crew had filled in for Mother Nature with hand watering, but the church plantings were in widely varied locations and it had been impossible to keep them even minimally watered. Dr. Dick was sore afraid (church newsletter language!).

He needn't have been. Almost immediately upon his departure the rains came – and then came some more. In fact it rained so heavily that the phrase "40 days and 40 nights" (some more church newsletter language!) sprang to Dr. Dick's aging, yet still agile, mind.

As he stood looking over the vast array of plantings, Dr. Dick noted that as part of the Green Sanctuary Program he had been careful to plant drought tolerant plants and that though they had showed signs of stress, most of them had survived severe lack of rainfall (less than half of the normal since January 1). His chest swelled with pride.

But alas "pride goeth before a fall" (give Dr. Dick an "A+" for his church newsletter language!). Diane, the real garden doc (even Dr. Dick gives her credit for knowing "quite a lot") glanced at the Garden Gate column and noticed that Dr. Dick had given himself all the credit for the durability of the garden during the lack of rainfall.

"You know better than that Dr. Dick - lots of people helped to plan and plant our drought resistant plants. Have you no sense of decency sir? At long last, have you left no sense of decency?" (apologies to Joseph Welch).

And Dr. Dick was sore ashamed.

FRENCH CONVERSATION

The Monday evening French Conversation group will not meet after May 25th. The group will resume the conversation in late September or early October, on **Eva Frank's** return.

