



WEEKLY

CONTACT

April 11, 2010

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota

www.uusarasota.com

Happening this Morning

9:30 Forum — “What Is the Future of Public vs. Private Education?” Marcy Saunders

10:30 Service “Ministry” Rev. Margret O’Neill

Today

Final opportunity to vote in the congregational poll on the organ. Vote at church Sunday or on the website by Monday.

4:00 pm Concert Russian émigré Eleonora Lvov performs Chopin, Gershwin, Albeniz and Rachmaninov. She played for the president of Israel, Prime Minister of England and Queen of Belgium, and now she plays for you. A wine and cheese reception follows. Tickets are available for \$10 in the courtyard after the service. “Free will” offerings are accepted at the door for those who can’t afford or don’t wish to pay the price of a ticket. Proceeds will benefit the UUCS music program. Concert in Sanctuary.

Lea Gitow: Collage exhibit *Fancy Free* until 4/28.

Finding your way around

Welcome, Guests! Stay and enjoy our “Second Sunday Pot Luck” lunch. If you will take a blue coffee mug we’ll know you are visiting and can introduce ourselves. Give us a chance to properly make you welcome by coming to the blue table in the Courtyard to meet people and ask questions about our church. We value your presence.

Interested in knowing us better? Sign up for emails: www.uusarasota.com/emailsignup.php

Hearing devices are available at the audio desk in the back of the Sanctuary. Earphones and earpieces are cleaned and stored separately from the receivers. Please write your name on the bag of the head/ear phone so that you may use the same one each week. You may use ANY receiver.

Parking. Members please preserve “Visitor” and “Reserved” parking spots for those they are intended for. Thank you.

Our community

Tribute Fund

In memory of Sam Horst, from Dee Widder.

The Tribute Fund is a great way to honor someone, or give thanks or just celebrate a special event. Call Esther Martin at 923-2177 or pick up a form in the church office or on the kiosk. Outside the sanctuary entrance.

Among ourselves: If you or someone you know needs caring, please call Dee Widder at 377-9028 or at WidderD@Verizon.net. To receive email updates on the health and welfare of the church community send your email address to Dee.

WEBSITE SCAVENGER HUNT: Correctly answer ten questions about content on our church website, and be eligible for prizes. Names of all people who have correctly answered the questions will be printed in the Members Corner after the contest. Read all details on the homepage of our website at www.uusarasota.com and have fun exploring! Call the office for a password for the Members’ Corner.

Help Wanted

Employment opportunity: We are seeking a person who is not a church member for the UUCS nursery to care for infants and toddlers while their parents are in the Sunday service. Hours: 10:00am – Noon every Sunday with an extra hour during religious education meetings. Additional hours during various church events (Saturdays, Sundays, evenings). Salary: \$15/hour; start date: immediate. To apply, send a resume with qualifications by e-mail, attn: Ginny Griesé at re@uusarasota.com

Needed: Sound System help. The system is vital to good communication but understaffed. Three of five loyal volunteers will be gone for several months this summer. We need a Sound team of seven or eight people. We need *your* help, regularly or occasionally. **June Brasgalla**, information just below

Writers Wanted We need people to write profiles of church members for our website. See existing profiles on the UUCS website at “Members’ Corner”. **June Brasgalla**, 379-6071; juneb22@comcast.net

We are grateful to volunteers from the **Friday Morning Chalice Group** who are responsible for setup and clean up for the Potluck. They are Kathy and Tom Cook, Catherine and Tom Dente, Heather and Rick Shaw, Barbara Silvera, and Don and Sara Slate. Katherine Isabelle set up tables. Thank you.

Our commitments

April 9 **A Teach Peace Conference** is happening locally. Get details at the Social Justice table.

April 28 –4:00pm, **Peace Issues /Activities** We are a member of the Southwest Florida Peace & Justice Coalition which meets at our church each month. Come learn what is being done in Sarasota about these issues. Meeting in South Wing

June 23-27 **UUA General Assembly 2010 meets in Minneapolis.** To be a delegate representing our congregation, see Rick Sandler or Rev. Margret. Detailed information is available at www.uua.org/events/generalassembly/.

April Special Food Collection continues all month! We are collecting food for the Bethesda House Food Bank. Bethesda House is a clinic that helps people with HIV and AIDS. Place your donations in the “Food Bank” bucket near the sanctuary doors. **Items especially needed: jelly, salad dressing, sugar packets, canned meat, spaghetti, canned spaghetti sauce, dry cereal.** Bring your cereal to the South Wing where the RE children are building a “mountain” of cereal for the effort. We want to reach the ceiling!

Learning opportunities

April 14 and May 12 7:30pm **Dances of Universal Peace** one-hour sessions are participatory meditation practice and dance. Jefferson Room. \$5.00

LEAP course information is on the church website www.uusarasota.org.

April 16 10:00am, Sanctuary **Freethinkers - “The Transformation of Quebec”** In the middle of the 20th century the Province of Quebec was one of the most Roman Catholic societies in the world. Ten years later it was one of the most secular societies in North America. What happened? Speaker: Larry Birch, a retired government official of the Treasury Board Secretariat, the Canadian equivalent of the White House Budget Office.

May 8 9:00am – 2:00pm, South Wing **“Discovering UUUS: New Member Orientation”** This is a workshop for those considering membership. Reverend Margret will discuss our history and explore what it means to be a UU. Other leaders will tell about our many activities and answer questions. Lunch is provided. Sign up at the Welcome Center.

Upcoming events

April 12 **Film Forum** 7:00pm Verna Safran, will be leading the discussion of “The Last Station” at our next Film Forum on Monday, in the South Wing. Direct questions to Louise King at llking@comcast.net or 379-0849.

April 18 Noon – 1:30pm **Social Justice sponsors a Panel Discussion about Homelessness in Sarasota.** Featured speakers are: Richard Martin, Executive Director, Suncoast Partnership To End Homelessness; Christina Swanson, AmeriCorps *VISTA; Richard Turrnell, Selby Library Focus Group, formerly homeless; and Tracey Crocker, AmeriCorps* VISTA, formerly homeless. There will be time for questions. Refreshments will be provided. Meeting is in the Sanctuary.

April 18 12:30 pm **Interweave Potluck/Meeting** at the home of Louise King . Speaker: Arlene Pearlman from the Congregation for Humanistic Judaism. Bring a side dish or dessert. Contact Louise at 379-0849 or LLKing@comcast.net.

April 21 6:00pm **The Interweave movie, Priest,** will be viewed after a social hour. (Bring salads, desserts, or whatever to share). Father Greg Pilkington, a devout gay priest tries to find answers for himself and those he cares for as he struggles with love for his church and congregation – and with his secret life as a gay lover. The movie has a powerful and moving conclusion. Call 922-0882 for directions.

Our Columnists

The Importance of Religious Education

It is important to understand how essential Religious Education is to the growth and spiritual development of our youth. Our program goals are to have children and youth who understand the significance of the Principles of Unitarian Universalism in their lives; take an active part in and are aware of social justice issues in the world; and who are guided and nurtured by the congregation so that they will grow into adults who take their faith with them wherever they go.

We have many positive examples of how the RE program is influencing our children. Our teens demonstrate on-going commitment to helping others in our community and other parts of the world. All of our children lived the UU principles at work as they engaged in raising funds for Barakat.

An excellent example of the result of long term influence of the UU Religious Education program is Ivey Lynn Kaiser, daughter of Isabel and Eric Oake. Ivey was enrolled in the RE program at the UU Fellowship of Columbia, SC, from the age of 3 to high school graduation. This May she graduates from the University of South Carolina where she has been named "Environmentalist of the Year" in the student magazine and featured in USC Parents' Newsletter. Ivey credits her deep love of nature and commitment to the environment to her experiences in the UU Religious Education program and her involvement at the Mountain , the UU Retreat and Learning Center in Highlands, N.C.

Our religious education program is offered from late August through mid-May during Sunday service from 10:30 am to 11:30 am. We have classes for pre-kindergarten through first grade, second through fourth grade and fifth grade through high school. At each level the RE program, taught by trained volunteers, offers an engaging variety of learning experiences that are appropriate to the children's developmental needs and abilities and grounded in our Unitarian Universalist principles.

If you bring your children regularly to Religious Education, take an interest in what they are learning and are active in helping the children develop their understanding of the UU principles, your children will develop into "adults who take their faith with them wherever they go." Ginny Griesé



Coming next Sunday, April 18

10:30am Sunday Service — *Earth Day: Gaia and Consciousness* – Rev. Francesca Hughes The film *Avatar* features a Gaia-like network, referred to as the “Mother,” in which all the organisms have a biological ability to “connect and communicate.” How does this metaphor inform our own take on this possibility and its direction?

9:30am Forum — *The Health Care Debate as High Drama*— John Foster, Moderator and Presenter. What were the highs and lows and the most startling twists and turns during the debate over health care this past year?