



July 11, 2010

WEEKLY CONTACT

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota

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HAPPENING SUNDAY JULY 11

* 9:30 a.m. Forum: "Why Is There a Preoccupation for Controlling Iran's Nuclear Activities?"

Pressure seems to be mounting for a military attack on Iran that could drag the U.S. into an unwise war that we are not prepared to sustain and that is not about issues of direct concern to the U.S.

Moderator and Presenter:

John Stinespring

* 10:30 a.m. "Peace in Every Breath" by Rev. Danielle Green

Worship Leader: Dorothy Conlon

"I imagine that yes is the only living thing." ee cummings

Today, more than ever, we are longing for peace: peace in our neighborhoods, larger community, state, country and world. What can we do as people of faith to be peacekeepers in our worlds? Ultimately, the path of peace must begin with oneself, even when that self is tormented with doubt, guilt and fear. Peace can begin with each breath.

Rev. Danielle Green, PhD, is an ordained UU minister. She holds masters degrees in psychology and divinity and a PhD in analytical psychology with a subspecialty in mysticism. She has been in private practice for over 25 years, working with individuals, couples, and groups throughout the U.S. and Europe.

* 10:30 a.m. **Religious Education - Nancy Thomas** Today we will continue to focus on friendships, and in particular about the importance of cooperation in friendships in "Higgins, A Drop in a Dream" and learn a couple of songs about cooperation and generosity. Together we will create a mural of friends, helping or playing with friends, and have fun with the games 'side by side' and 'back to back.'

OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS

* **July 11 - Summer Salad and Sandwiches Potluck** - Please bring a salad, sandwiches, or dessert to our potluck on Sunday, July 11. Please do not bring anything that needs to be heated in the oven. Remember to bring enough food for 8 people. Thanks to the following people for helping with the potluck this Sunday: Joan Athman, Wanda Brunner, Kathy and Tom Cook, Pat Hochkins, Katherine Isabelle, Lynda Kiasten, Genevieve Perkins and a special thanks to Mac McDowell for washing all the mugs.

OUR COMMUNITY

* **Among Ourselves:** With deep sadness, we announce the passing of Cliff Carlstedt on June 18. The Memorial Service will be held in the Sanctuary on Saturday, July 10, at 11:00am.

* **Please call Dee Widder** at 377-9028 if you or someone you know needs caring.

* **Visit the stunning exhibit of Chinese Brush Paintings by Renee Vickery** of Sarasota in our Southwing Gallery. Living in Asia for 15 years, Vickery was influenced by native Chinese painters who used traditional implements: ink stick, ink stone, oriental pigments and Zhuan paper. Vickery states "I have taken to heart the words of Lu Xun, who urged in 1982: "I entreat fresh visions from painters. Be lavish with your vermilion to portray mountains in the spring." If you are interested in purchasing any of

her artwork, please know that 30% of the purchase price will be donated to the Church's general fund. Renee's website is www.ren-ahchineseart.com

* **If you have issues of "UU World" that you no longer want**, please bring them to the Welcome Center on Sundays. Our new members tell us they have found the magazine an excellent resource for learning about our faith. We would like to have copies available for our visitors. Thank you from the Membership Committee.

* **Tribute Fund**

Please call Esther Martin at 923-2177 or pick up a form in the church office or on the kiosk outside the sanctuary entrance.

* **Donate flowers for Sunday** to honor someone special or celebrate an occasion by signing up at the kiosk and calling Nancy Sciore at 922-0243.

* **Free Bulletin Board Available to Our Members:** UUCS members can now enjoy their own private electronic Bulletin Board. You can offer rides, ask for rides, sell items you no longer need, etc.—all within the UUCS community. The Bulletin Board is in the Members' Corner. To access it, you'll need the church password.

UPCOMING EVENTS

* **July 16 - Fun Friday Pot luck dinner at 6:30 p.m.** at UUCS South Wing. Bring a dish to share and your own drink. (soft drinks, wine, etc) Coffee & water will be provided. \$1 per person suggested donation to pay for cleanup. This is a family event. Parents are encouraged to bring their children who will be admitted at no charge.

* **July 18 - Interweave Potluck**

July Interweave Potluck will be held on Sunday July 18th at the home of June Brascgalla (379 6071). We gather at 12:30 pm. Our speaker for the meeting will be the Rev. Tim Dudley. Please respond with side dishes and desserts for this event. Directions will be available after church on the 18th.

* **July 21 - Interweave July Movie: Hannah Free**

Hannah Free is a feature film about the lifelong love affair between an independent spirit and the woman she calls home. Hannah and Rachel grow up in the same Midwest town, where traditional gender expectations eventually challenge their deep love for one another. Hannah becomes an adventurous, unapologetic lesbian and Rachel a strong but reserved homemaker. Weaving between past and present, the story reveals how the women maintain their love affair despite a marriage, a world war, infidelity, and family denial and jealousy.

Our July movie will be shown Wed. July 21, at the home of Ron Brown and Logan Nicholson (922 0883 if you need directions) 6pm for social hour - with a 7pm show time. Nibbles always welcome.

* **The July 24, August 28, and September 25 Get Together Dinner assignments** are now posted on the church web site: www.uusarasota.com

FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND

* **Welcome Guests!** Stay and have cookies and coffee with us after the service. If you will take a blue 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. Audio files of all sermons are posted online at www.uusarasota.com/sermons.php.

OUR COMMITMENTS

* **Volunteer Opportunities** are available for serving meals at the Salvation Army. We serve food every Wednesday night and Friday lunch. The food is prepared - we just dish it out and smile! **We need you now!** (as many of our regular volunteers are on vacation). Please sign up at the SJ Committee table in the courtyard today.

* **Are you interested in helping an adult learner improve their literacy?** The Literacy Council of Sarasota is looking for volunteer tutors, and space for tutoring adults. The Social Justice (SJ) Committee is investigating how many of us would be interested in participating in a project like this. If there are enough, we could have a training session at our church and even possibly host some tutoring at our church. If you think you might be interested, stop by the SJ table in the courtyard, look at the materials, and talk with us.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

* **In Religious Education during the summer** we offer loving care for the infants and toddlers in the nursery while the teenagers attend church and the preschoolers through fifth graders meet in the West Wing. Since the program encourages exploration, the focus on any given morning may shift from the planned activities. For the summer months the overarching idea is to explore the meaning of the children's versions of the 7 UU principles. We will look at the meaning and implications of the principles through stories, crafts, music, discussions and games.

For more information on today's program, please see the section **"HAPPENING SUNDAY JULY 11"**

OUR COLUMNISTS

* **Advocacy - What is it good for? by Julie Leach**

Social justice work combines three types of activism: immediate relief, education and advocacy. For example, our community work with the residents of *Public Housing*, includes providing rent/utility relief for families who have unforeseen needs, educating the residents as to their rights in the Public Housing system, encouraging them to involve themselves in that system, educating our community about the issue, as well as advocacy within the local political system. In this case, all this work, resulted in the redevelopment of our local substandard system. This has been a relatively successful story, but like all social justice work, it is not finished. We continue to apply our resources to all three areas.

Recently, I have had two other opportunities for local advocacy work: the piece of anti-choice legislation referred to as the "Ultrasound Bill" - a state bill which would have required women considering an abortion to pay for an unnecessary medical procedure, and the recent beach rally against offshore oil drilling near Florida beaches. The results of this type of advocacy are always dependent upon the particular political winds blowing at the time. In the first case, Governor Crist vetoed the Ultrasound Bill, but only after carefully keeping track of how many people called/emailed/rallied on this subject and after abandoning his political party to run as an independent - would we have been successful without that decision? We don't know, but we do know that if we had not put time and effort into fighting the bill, we wouldn't have been successful.

Will we keep oil drilling away from our beaches? We don't know, but if we don't write letters, email, call our political representatives about this issue, others will and our voices won't get heard. To paraphrase another 60's song - "You can't always get what you want, but if you try sometimes, you just might find, you get what you need." Look for advocacy opportunities every Sunday at our Social Justice table in the courtyard.

COMING NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 18

*** 9:30 a.m. Forum: “What Is Patriotism?”**

Presenter: Michael Suarez

Moderator: Leroy Sims

*** 10:30 a.m. “My Dirty Little UU Secret”**

Jennifer Dant

How do we look at ourselves when it comes to our social justice work? That judging can, in fact, keep us from serving fully. This is a sermon about reframing how we look at what we do.