



July 18, 2010

# WEEKLY CONTACT

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota

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## HAPPENING 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; Worship Leader: Sue Sherman

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.

**Jennifer Dant** is a candidate for the UU ministry, completing her Master of Divinity through Meadville Lombard Theological School. She is the co-chair of the Florida Chapter of the Liberal Religious Educators Association (LREDA) and has served as the Director of Religious Education at the UU Congregation of Greater Naples. In addition, she is a Women's Health Care Nurse Practitioner and the mother of three children.

\* **10:30 a.m. Religious Education - Nancy Thomas** The topic shifts to family this week and there are several wonderful choices of books to read including *The Invisible String*, *The Kissing Hand*, or *Love You Forever*. We may also read *Five Minutes of Peace*, which would be a fun story to act out. Our discussion could focus on what we enjoy doing as a family and how we can help our family followed by the creation of a work of art or a story demonstrating family activities.

## OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS

\* **July 18 - Interweave Potluck** will be held on Sunday, July 18th, at the home of June Bragalla (941-379-6071). 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.

## OUR COMMUNITY

\* **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 feel welcome by coming to the blue table in the Courtyard to meet people and ask questions about our church. We very much value your presence!

\* **Hospitality:** Thanks to Katherine Isabelle for managing coffee making and setup; to Tom Cook for washing the mugs today; to Janis Williams for supplying us with cookies, juice and volunteers to serve them.

\* **Interested in knowing us better?** Sign up for emails: [www.uusarasota.com/emailsignup.php](http://www.uusarasota.com/emailsignup.php). Audio files of all sermons are posted online at [www.uusarasota.com/sermons.php](http://www.uusarasota.com/sermons.php).

\* **Be sure to notice the bulletin board outside the South Wing** and read about our newest members! Thanks to Joanne Curtis for this nice display. Other profiles are available on our website under Members Corner. If you would like your life story on the church website, please call June Bragalla at 379-6071.

\* **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](http://www.ren-ahchineseart.com)

\* **History of UUCS:** Our church website is constantly adding new content. We now have two rich pages devoted to UUCS history. If you look under the tab for Our church, you will see two new items: History of our Architecture and Brief History of our Congregation. Read all about the Unitarian Universalists in Sarasota! The Brief History contains a PDF version of a booklet compiled by Janet Odell and others for our Fiftieth Anniversary in 2002. If you lost your copy, or joined the church since 2002, please navigate to the following website: [www.uusarasota.com/HistoryOfCongregation.php](http://www.uusarasota.com/HistoryOfCongregation.php) and enjoy the booklet.

\* **Tribute Fund** - If you are interested in learning more about our 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.

\* **Tribute by Dorothy Conlon in memory of Cliff Carlstedt.**

\* **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 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); **social hour starts at 5pm (not 6pm as previously stated)** and show time will be at 7pm. 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](http://www.uusarasota.com)

\* **July 25 at noon - Travelogue by Dorothy Conlon**

Dominican Republic - More than resorts and beaches. Stick around after church on Sunday, July 25, for some vicarious travel. (No passport required.) Dorothy Conlon will share scenes from her recent travels in the beautiful Dominican Republic. Her time there included volunteer teaching, staying at a coffee estate and exploring the Zona Colonia in Santo Domingo.

## FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND

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## 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.

\* **Hoping to create peace in our currently volatile world?** Beyond War is sponsoring a free discussion group/class on nonviolence. The class starts this week and will be held at the Unity church; pick up a flyer at the SJ committee table if you want to learn more.

\* **Have you thought about ethical eating lately?** This is one of our denomination's Study/Action issues. SJ Committee has a petition on the table for the next two weeks asking restaurants not to serve Foie Gras - find out more at the SJ table.

## 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 18**"

## OUR COLUMNISTS

Have you thought about our denomination's current Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) about "Ethical Eating" lately? Each year a CSAI is selected by vote at our national conference and it is an invitation for congregations and districts to take a topic of concern and confront it, reflect on it, learn about it, respond to it, comment on it or take action - each in their own way. A CSAI is NOT a statement - it is a question. You can learn about all aspects of this CSAI at [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org). Here is one opportunity to act upon now: Foie gras, French for "fatty liver," is made from the grotesquely enlarged livers of male ducks and geese. The birds are kept in tiny wire cages or packed into sheds. Pipes are repeatedly shoved down the birds' throats, and up to 4 pounds of grain and fat are pumped into their stomachs two or three times every day. The pipes puncture many birds' throats, sometimes causing the animals to bleed to death. This cruel procedure causes the birds' livers to become diseased and swell to up to 10 times their normal

size. Many birds become too sick to stand up. The birds who survive the force-feeding are killed, and their livers are sold for foie gras. People around the world have spoken out against the cruelty of foie gras. In 2004, California passed a law banning the sale and production of foie gras, effective in 2012. Many countries have outlawed this practice including Australia, Germany, Italy, Poland, Netherlands, Israel, South Africa, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Take the 'No Foie Gras' pledge promising that you will never support the horrific cruelty of the foie gras industry by stopping by the SJ Committee table and signing a petition. The appeal asks local restaurants to stop serving foie gras and will be available at the SJ Committee table for the next two weeks, along with additional information on this issue.

SJ Committee

## **COMING NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 25**

**\* 9:30 a.m. Forum: "County vs. City Police Departments and the Eventual Effect on the Entire County and City Governments"**

Could this lead to the eventual disincorporation of the city of Sarasota?

Presenter and Moderator: Marie Davids

**\* 10:30 a.m. "Moving Beyond Pacifism"**

Rev. Abhi Janamanchi

Peace is not just the absence of war. Thinking of peace in terms of either military action or pacifism tends to focus on military action and diverts us away from other effective actions, which include much more than pacifism. As theologian Walter Wink argues, we need to get rid of both pacifism and just war and look for ways to actively reduce harm. The service will look into peacemaking as an effective alternative.