



July 25, 2010

WEEKLY CONTACT

Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota

3975 Fruitville Road, Sarasota FL 34232

(941) 371-4974

Fax (941) 377-4897

www.uusarasota.com

HAPPENING 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" by Rev. Abhi Janamanchi; Worship Leader: Mary Lou Keller**

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.

Rev. Abhi Janamanchi, who was born in India, was reared in a liberal Hindu tradition (similar to UUism) called the "*Brahmo Samaj*". His education was in Quantum Physics and Electronics. After being a lay-minister of the *Brahmo Samaj*, Abhi was inspired to enroll in Meadville/Lombard Seminary to prepare for full-time ministry in India. He graduated in 1998 and shortly thereafter was ordained at the Unitarian Church of Evanston, Illinois. Abhi has served as senior minister at the Unitarian Universalist's of Clearwater congregation since 1999.

*** 10:30 a.m. Religious Education by Nancy Thomas**

The emphasis today will be on different cultures and this topic certainly includes the first, second, and fifth UU principles as well as the third principle, "accept one another and learn together", and the sixth, "working for a peaceful, fair and free world". We will read '*All the Colors We Are*' and '*For Every Child*' and learn the song '*The World is a Rainbow*'. Today we will create snacks from different cultures and if anyone has any family items that reflect their cultural heritage please have your child bring them to share.

OTHER SUNDAY EVENTS

*** July 25 at noon - Travelogue by Dorothy Conlon: *Dominican Republic - More than resorts and beaches.*** Be sure to 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.

OUR COMMUNITY

- * **Hospitality:** Thanks to Katherine Isabelle for managing coffee making and setup; to El Parent for washing the mugs today; to Janis Williams for supplying us with cookies, juice and volunteers to serve them.
- * **Please call Dee Widder** at 377-9028 if you or someone you know needs caring.
- * **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.
- * **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

- * **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

- * **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

- * **Sunday's Share-the-Plate Offering:** Each month we donate one of our Sunday offerings to an organization making a difference in our community. Our offering today will go to Gulfcoast Legal Services Child division (GLS CHILD) which provides specialized legal services, education and advocacy on behalf of immigrant children in Pinellas, Pasco, Hillsborough, Manatee and Sarasota Counties. GLS Child represents children applying for: *Special Immigrant Juvenile Status* - Where the child is a victim of abuse, abandonment or neglect and it is not in the child's best interest to return to their native country, *Asylum U-Visa* - Where the child is a victim of a serious crime, VAWA Self Petitions Act or similar immigration help, and removal defense in proceedings before an immigration judge. If you can't join us on Sunday, but wish to donate, you can mail a check to the church at 3975 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34232; make the check out to UUCS and write "GLS Child" in the memo line.
- * **Habitat for Humanity:** We are providing snacks at Habitat for Humanity's worksite next Saturday, July 31, from 9 - 10am. Please sign up today at the Social Justice table in the courtyard to bring something and help serve.
- * **Have you thought about ethical eating lately?** Ethical eating is one of our denominations Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAI). The Social Justice Committee has a petition on the table for the next two weeks asking local restaurants not to serve foie gras. Find out more about this cruel farming practice 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 25**"

COMING NEXT SUNDAY, AUGUST 1

* **9:30 a.m. Forum: Mitch Zavon, Moderator; Tim Dutton, Presenter: "Development of Resources and Assets That Accommodate Needs of Less-Abled Citizens"** The Director of SCOPE will speak about how Sarasota is poised to be a leader in the thinking and innovation regarding the aging phenomenon that is on the horizon around the globe. Learn about how the basic demographics of our community are the foundation for creative solutions to problems and opportunities for new products, services and policies. What is the plan for moving this idea forward? What are the economic development implications?

* **10:30 a.m. : "At That Moment All I Had..." Helen Bennett**

Helen Bennett, president of the Humanists of Brevard, reviewed a troubled artist's memoir recently and raised a compelling question. Personal reflections abound in which people express the conviction that their faith in God was the only thing to carry them safely through their personal trials. Helen asked, "I wonder what Humanism could possibly offer the desperate, the addicted, and the suicidal. Is there a form of relief, beyond simple meditation, that can aid such unlucky souls? How do we bounce back from the brink without belief in God or the supernatural?" This is a question that can vex, not just humanists, but people of all faiths. It is an excellent question and one to which I think we can find an answer together.