

All Souls News

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 9449 Ellerbe Road, Shreveport, LA 71106 | (318) 868-3313 | www.allsoulsshreveport.org

APRIL SERVICES

Worship Service starts at 11 a.m.

Children and Youth are dismissed during the service for Religious Education. Nursery care is available during Adult RE (9:15 a.m.) and till the service ends.

April 2—“Open to Transformation” by Rev. Barbara Jarrell. *Board Persons of the Day are Phil Boswell and Alice Normand.*

April 9—“The Great Kapok Tree” by Lynne Cherry has much to tell about the Interdependent Web and how all life is dependent upon and responsible for all other life. It's a good reminder of the way we should look after the planet, which also extends to the way we look out for each other. Our guest for this service and immediately afterward will be Lily Jonsek of PAX, an organization that sponsors exchange students from predominantly Muslim countries and countries in the Former Soviet Union. Jonsek will do a brief editorial during the service and a presentation afterward. She is interested in talking to people about being host families for these students. A light lunch will be served. *Board Persons of the Day are Eric First and Phil Boswell.*

April 16—Our Easter Service, a celebration of springtime, renewal, and the spirit of resurrection within all of us. The service includes an inclusive communion centered around the root of the word itself, the community. An Easter Egg hunt for our children ages Nursery through 5th grade, follows the service. Our Middle and High School youth serve as Easter Bunny Assistants, and are paid the standard Official Hiders' Fee. *Board Persons of the Day are James Peck and John Allen.*

April 23 – A Celebration of Earth Day. *Board Persons of the Day are Nicki McLain and Eric First.*

April 30 – In light of recent events in the UUA, All Souls is shifting our worship and religious education plans to participate in a nationwide teach-in on issues of racism and white supremacy. The **#uuwhitesupremacyteachin** is a large-scale historic action led by UUs of color and white UUs working together, and is an opportunity to look critically within our faith, including hiring practices, power brokers, and cultural habits, to discover the way that racism, sexism, and white supremacy pervade. From the leaders: “White supremacy is a provocative term, because it conjures images of hoods and mobs. Yet in 2017, actual ‘white supremacists’ are not required in order to uphold white supremacist culture. Building a faith full of people who understand that key distinction is essential as we work toward a more just society in difficult political times.” *Board Persons of the Day are Melissa Gibson and Jocelyn Lanham.*

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tuesdays through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Celebrate World Religion Day All Year with Monthly Speaker Series

Every second Tuesday, the World Religion Day Committee of Shreveport-Bossier hosts a series featuring speakers from the vastly diverse religions we have right here in our community.

For April, the World Religion Day Monthly Speaker Series features Benjamin Riggs, leader of the Refuge Meditation Group and author of *Finding God in the Body: A Spiritual Path for the Modern West.*

Combining teachings and practices of Buddhism, Christianity, Judaism and 12-Step Spirituality, Riggs offers a path for the journey inward that marries clear instructions for practice with elements of Buddhist meditation, Christian and Jewish contemplative wisdom, and 12-Step spirituality, not as a "spiritual smorgasbord" but woven thoughtfully into a clear, deep, and coherent whole.

He and his teachings are the very embodiment of the spirit of World Religion Day, and he speaks as he writes, in a clear, accessible, and often gently humorous style. Please join us at Unity of Shreveport, 670 Stoner Ave in Shreveport, on Tuesday, April 11 at 6 p.m.

UU SUMMER CAMPS

26-29 May 2017 Multi-Generational Family Camp (U-Bar- U Camp and Retreat Center – Mountain Home, TX). For more information, contact the church office.

11-17 June 2017 Sojourner Camp (U-Bar- U Camp and Retreat Center – Mountain Home TX). Camp for rising 3rd through 5th grade children. For more information, contact the church office.

25 June – 1 July 2017 Olympia Camp (U-Bar- U Camp and Retreat Center – Mountain Home TX). Camp for rising 6th and 7th grade youth. For more information, contact the church office.

2-8 July 2017 Seeger Camp (U-Bar- U Camp and Retreat Center – Mountain Home TX). Camp for rising 8th and 9th grade youth. For more information, contact the church office.

9-15 July 2017 Reeb Camp (U-Bar- U Camp and Retreat Center – Mountain Home TX). Camp for rising 10th through 12th grade youth. For more information, contact the church office.

23-28 July 2017 The Point Summer Camp (Sequoyah State Park – Hulbert OK). All-ages retreat and summer camp. For more details, go online here: <http://www.thepointuu.org/>
Submitted by Steve Caldwell, Denominational Affairs

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday, April 25 by 8 p.m.

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All Souls is a
Welcoming
Congregation.


FROM THE MINISTER

And So We Gather

By Rev.

Barbara Jarrell



disagree with us.

We are called by a dynamic and evolving movement to reevaluate our understandings, positions, assumptions, and behaviors in an on-going manner with commitment to personal growth for our own welfare as well as our ability to be of service in this ever-changing world.

I have occasion from time to time to consider what it is that draws us together. As we always discover, the things that bring us here are as varied as our individual stories.

Some come for Spiritual nourishment, suggestions, or encouragement and some come for safety—still, others for challenge, intellectual stimulation and augmented awareness on matters of justice, action, and peace. Some of us are here to be affirmed in what in this area can feel like lonely stances on life, political, social, religious, and environmental issues just to name a few.

Still we look for companions in the struggle and respectful interactions even from those here who

I would like to share some thoughts I personally assembled using your words, thoughts, and priorities as collected from a few of our gatherings and workshops. Please don't mistake this for a sanctioned, crafted completed version of any official statement. (I have a dozen more versions myself.)

I simply believe when we continue to hold these things before us as the measuring rod (with the acknowledgement that if

we are not growing and changing then we are tacitly contributing to the problems around us) we will know what to do and how to be in every given circumstance.

Alive with the transforming power of Love we cultivate peace through increasing understanding, inspiring one another to become our best selves, nurturing courageous hearts, open minds, healthy spirits, and empowering bold action in the service of justice.

In reverence for a world we did not create, a universe we cannot control, and Mystery beyond our comprehension

We welcome All Souls—I love you folks.

In ever-evolving faith,

Barbara

DENOMINATIONAL EVENTS

April 2017 & Beyond

26-28 May 2017 Baton Rouge YRUU

Youth Rally (UU Church of Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge LA). For youth ages 14-19 in high school. For more details, contact the church office.



NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA | 2017

UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

June 21 to 25

Details available at:

www.uua.org/ga

If you are looking for ride share and/or room sharing information, check out the All Souls Shreveport Caring Connections Facebook Page or contact the Church Office

Submitted by Steve Caldwell,

Denominational Affairs

Resources for the Resistance

'To Better Work Where We Most Need It'



By Susan Caldwell,
Director of Lifespan Religious Education

If you spend any time at all on social media, you may have heard that the last week of March was a hard time to be a Unitarian Universalist.

Protests over the filling of the position of Southern Region Congregational Life staff lead with a white male minister living outside the region as opposed to an equally-qualified Latina religious educator living in the region resulted in a somewhat tone-deaf response by UUA President Peter Morales, and ultimately in his resignation, though he was not the one who made the initial hire that started the controversy. Indeed, many were disappointed that he chose to take the fall so close to the end of his term, rather than stay and help begin to set us on a healing path.

While it is true that despite our vocal affirmation of diversity, our denomination remains overwhelmingly white, UU leadership has voiced the intention to fill staff positions with people of color and work toward a membership that looks more like America. This hire seemed to fly in the face of that effort.

As a next step toward the kind of self-evaluation we need to be doing as a faith community, Black Lives of UU is organizing a denomination-wide teach-in on the issues of racism and white supremacy, and how they have continued even in a liberal faith that has stood resolutely for civil rights and that claims to honor and value diversity. All Souls will be participating in the #uuwhitesupremacyteachin on April 30, and will shift our worship and religious education toward that theme on that day. We have our own mixed record as a congregation on which to reflect as we embark on this difficult yet vital work.

Already, we hope that our reading of the book *Dignity* by Donna Hicks is giving us tools for this important work, and Barbara and I are also recommending that you read a book called *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving.

Irving was inspired to write the book by the documentary *Race: The Power of an Illusion* which we recently showed at All Souls and will likely do again.

When the conversations around the hiring issues had barely begun, yet another horrendous and painful truth came to light. The Rev. Ron Robinson, founder of the missional Welcome Table Community Center and Garden in Turley Oklahoma, leader of the UU Christian Fellowship, and a man who had spoken in our pulpit a number of times and whom we considered a friend, was arrested on a charge of seeking out, possessing, and viewing child pornography. So many people have admired him and all that he has done for one of the poorest communities in Oklahoma. It is astounding enough that humans can do such great good and such

great evil, and it is still more astounding when it is allegedly the same human.

Ron and his family are in my prayers, as are any and all children who have been harmed by the predilection he allegedly shares with too many others, as are the Welcome Table and all the people it serves, as that work continues.

The night I found out this horrible, gut-punching news, I was coming from the Highland Blessing Dinner, and I reflected that even as we learn something so devastating about one we admired so much, at least this kind of work, this ministry of service where it is most needed, is what remains.

So, as we come out of what may seem to be a bit more Good Friday than we were expecting, we still look to Easter for signs of renewal and rebirth, rededicating ourselves to good work begun and inspired by deeply flawed people, and to better work where we most need it. May it be so.

Teachers Needed for Next Pillar and for Summer Activities

We are still in need of teachers in our PreK/K-1 and 2nd-5th classes for the final pillar of the regular church school year, Personal Spiritual Growth and Development. This is a time when the children and youth have a chance to explore their own feelings and spiritual inclinations in age-appropriate ways, including learning about and experiencing different kinds of spiritual practice, such as prayer, yoga, and meditation, as well as the ways in which many everyday activities can be spiritual practice as well.

If you are interested and have been regularly attending church for six months or longer, please talk to me at dre@allsoulsshreveport.org or (318) 465-3427.

Also, if you have a special talent or skill or project you'd like to share with our children and youth, consider doing that on a Sunday during the summer. Our summer programming is always more geared to creative, artistic pursuits, and we welcome your ideas and participation.

Easter Bunny Needs Help with the Annual Egg Hunt

The bunny always gets nervous around this time of year, wondering if help will come in the form of eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt, even though I always try and assure her that the members of All Souls will always come through. Every Easter, we have an Easter egg hunt after church for our children, Nursery age through 5th grade. Our Middle School and High School youth always help out as Official E.B. Assistants, hiding the eggs and receiving an acceptable Hiders' Fee for their efforts.

Keep our bunny off the Xanax and bring a dozen filled plastic Easter Eggs to church before April 16. You can fill the eggs with candy, small toys, stickers, or even simply buy the egg-shaped sidewalk chalk you can often find at this time of year. If you are looking for chocolate that is assured not to employ child labor in its production, check out companies such as Aldi, Equal Exchange, Theo, or SunSpire.

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|--|----------------------------|---|---|---|
| A P R | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship/RE 1:30PM LTA 5PM Course in Miracles | 3 | 4 6PM Together Tuesday 7PM TED Talks Discussion Group 7:30PM Roy Zimmerman Concert | 5 5:30PM Choir | 6 5PM Support Group 5PM Highland Blessing Dinner 5:45 Yoga | 7 7PM Game Night  | 8 9AM to 1PM Building & Grounds Work Day (Page 6) 10:30AM Meditation 11AM-2PM PACE's Pride in the Park 3PM ADF |
| 9 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship/RE 12PM PAX Presentation (Page 1) 12:15PM Newcomer Info Session 5PM Course in Miracles | 10 <i>Passover Begins</i> | 11 7PM TED Talks Discussion Group | 12 5:30PM Choir | 13 5PM Support Group 5:45 Yoga | 14 3:30PM Richardson Wedding <i>Good Friday</i> | 15 10:30AM Meditation 3PM ADF |
| 16 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship / RE 5PM Course in Miracles <i>Easter</i> | 17  | 18 6PM Board & Council Meeting 7PM TED Talks Discussion Group | 19 5:30PM Choir | 20 5PM Support Group 5:45 Yoga 7PM Interfaith Lunch Meeting | 21 10AM-1PM MEDIA SALE! 7PM Game Night  | 22 10AM-1PM MEDIA SALE! 10:30 AM Meditation 3PM ADF |
| 23 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship / RE 12:30-1:30PM MEDIA SALE! 5PM Course in Miracles | 24 | 25 7PM TED Talks Discussion Group 8PM Newsletter Deadline | 26 5:30 PM Choir | 27 5PM Support Group 5:45 Yoga | 28 | 29 10:30AM Meditation 3PM ADF |
| 30 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship/RE 5PM Course in Miracles | May 1 | 2 7PM TED Talks Discussion Group | 3 5:30 PM Choir | 4 5PM Support Group 5:45 Yoga 5PM Highland Blessing Dinner | 5 7PM Game Night | |

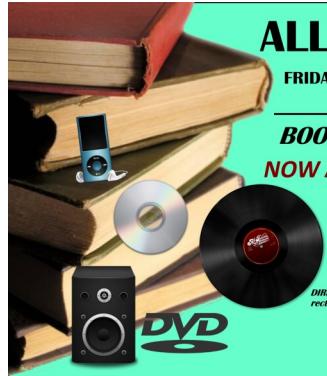
Volunteers Needed for Media Sale

All Souls needs two volunteers to work the Friday and Saturday sales shifts, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Also, join us Wednesday, April 19 from 6 to 9 p.m. for a Pizza & Work Party. Come by and help move tables, categorize books, and enjoy pizza and fellowship!

We are still accepting books, DVDs, and vinyl.

Please contact Melissa Gibson at melissainkdesigns@gmail.com or (318) 550-1296 with any questions.



ALL SOULS MEDIA SALE

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, April 21 & 22, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
SUNDAY, April 23—12:30 to 1:30 p.m.**

BOOKS! DVDS! VINYL! CDS! & MORE!

NOW ACCEPTING YOUR UNWANTED MEDIA

**Please drop off your donations at:
9449 Ellerie Road
Shreveport, LA 71106
www.facebook.com/allsoulsshreveport**

DIRECTIONS: Take Line Avenue/Ellerie Road south past Bert Kouns. All Souls is on the left, directly across from Kroger, before you get to the CVS on Flannery-Lucas.

**Paperbacks 50 cents, Hardcovers \$1 (unless otherwise marked)
Sunday: \$5 a bag (anything you can fit in a bag for \$5)**

NOW COLLECTING YOUR UNWANTED BOOKS & MORE!

Phil Boswell Named VOM

April's Volunteer of the Month is **Phil Boswell**. Phil is a powerhouse member, he volunteers in the church office two days a week, sings in the choir, and regularly sweats on Building & Grounds Work Days. Phil is also finishing out a term on the Board of Directors, replacing Diane Bundy upon her move. Phil and his wife **Sarah** are also reliable volunteers for potlucks and fundraisers.

For all the work Phil and his family put into All Souls, we thank you!

Newcomer Info Session on April 9

Join us the Newcomer Information Session on Sunday, April 9 at 12:15 p.m.

Grab a cup of coffee after the service and join us in the middle/high school classroom—the one with the couches. The meeting is open to anyone interested in

exploring more about Unitarian Universalism and membership at All Souls. Staff and members will be present to answer questions.

If you have questions regarding membership, please contact Ron Thurston at (318) 300-9509.