



All Souls News

A newsletter for the members and friends of All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Shreveport



9449 Ellerbe Road, Shreveport, Louisiana 71106 ♦ (318) 868-3313 ♦ www.allsoulsushreveport.org

FEBRUARY SERVICES

Adult Religious Education starts at 9:30 a.m.

Activities for Children and Youth will be available during Adult RE.

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 and till the service ends.

February 1 — Health permitting, **Rev. Barbara Jarrell** is in the pulpit this morning. **Claudia Harris** will speak in her place if she is unable to be with us, and otherwise, will speak at a later date. *Board Persons of the Day are Kathy Osuch and John Ratcliff.*

February 8 — **Ron Hagar** is our guest in the pulpit this morning with “Seeking the Philosopher’s Stone.” Ron says, “Originating within the book *The Emerald Tablet* by D. W. Houck, we will overview a centuries-old path involving both Eastern and Western alchemical traditions which cleanse the pilgrim of impurities to allow their attainment of the Philosopher’s Stone. Miss it? No bliss it.” *Board Persons of the Day are Melissa Gibson and Bennett Upton.*

February 15 — “**One Light Through Many Windows,**” a multi-generational celebration of our Third Source, “Wisdom from the World’s Religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life.” *Board Persons of the Day are Bob Jordan and Eric First.*

February 22—Health permitting, **Rev. Barbara Jarrell** is in the pulpit this morning. **Amanda Lawrence** will speak in her place if she is unable to be with us, and otherwise, will speak at a later date. *Board Persons of the Day are Amanda Lawrence and Ken Peterson.*

Let the Good Times Roll with All Souls

Laissez les bons temps rouler! All Souls kicks off the Mardi Gras season on Friday, February 6 from 7 to 10 p.m.

Bob Jordan, Elaine and Chris Webb, Bethany Sorkey, and Gail Burt lend their talents to the Mardi Grass Band, featuring an eclectic mix of blue grass, Cajun, folk, and pop.

For a \$10 suggested donation, attendees will enjoy music, snacks, and a cash bar. All Souls will also be serving king cakes from Lilah’s Bakery, recently voted the best king cakes in Shreveport-Bossier.

This family-friendly event has on-site child-care, and the kids will roll out their creations at the Shoebox Parade—scheduled to hit the scene at 8:30 p.m. (weather permitting, of course).

Spread the word and bring some friends! It’s going to be a blast! (See Page 5.)

Submitted by Melissa Gibson, Newsletter Editor

Office Volunteers Needed

The All Souls Office is currently served only two days a week by two regular volunteers, **Kathy Osuch** and **Patrick Early**.

We are in need of volunteers who are able to commit to Wednesday or Friday or are willing to substitute on occasion when our regular volunteers are unable to make it. Duties include returning calls, answering the phone, printing, etc.

Could this be you? If you would like more information, please contact Kathy at (318) 861-6729 or kjosuch@aol.com.

Submitted by Melissa Gibson, Newsletter Editor

stoptheburnla.org

WE WANT SAFE DISPOSAL!

AT CAMP MINDEN!

Details on #stoptheburn on Page 4.

Concerned Citizens of the Camp Minden M6 Open Burn

OFFICE HOURS Tuesday through Friday: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
OFFICE EMAIL office@allsoulsushreveport.org
OFFICE PHONE (318) 868-3313



CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office
(318) 868-3313

office@allsoulsuushreveport.org

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Eric First, President
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Director of Lifespan Religious Education

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Fundraising Committee

OPEN

Membership Committee

Ron Thurston
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Pledge Drive Committee

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Newsletter Editor

Melissa Gibson
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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
Tuesday, February 24 at 8 p.m.

All Souls is a
Welcoming
Congregation.



FROM THE MINISTER

Thanks for Stepping Up, Jumping In

By Rev.
Barbara Jarrell



I thought it time for me to check in with those of you who read the newsletter but have some difficulty getting to church.

I have been doing well, thank you. And thank you to **Susan Caldwell** for keeping you apprised of my health and developments.

Those of you who have been to church in the last few weeks have seen my hair disappear and the jaunty hat that I have decided is most appropriate for Sunday Service head covering. I wear it mostly to keep my head warm but

I do like its rather unique style.

I have been serving to provide the “bookends” a number of our Sunday services, and by the time you read this I should have again been responsible for an entire service. I know that I’m learning a great deal from all of these experiences but imagine that those lessons will become far more apparent as I have the opportunity to again be more fully engaged with All Souls activities and the broader community.

I have genuinely missed you. I have missed being active and feeling “a part of” the goings on though I am quite proud of the strides that have been

made in my absence.

Thank you to every single one of you who has stepped up, taken on a bit more, or jumped into the spaces where things might otherwise have fallen untended or unnoticed.

My treatments continue. I am unfortunately still limited by the side-effects. Know that I will be anxious to get back to work in every capacity possible as soon as possible. I thank you for your continued warm thoughts, prayers, cards, and efforts.

See you soon.

Yours in Ever-Evolving
Faith,

Barbara

Interfaith Meetings Scheduled for February

Please join us at All Souls in the Social Hall on Tuesday, February 10 at 6:30 p.m. for a congregational House Meeting to discuss the issues that we as a congregation would like to see Interfaith undertake.

Already on the table are a new approach for reforming the predatory payday lending industry at the federal level, continued efforts to bring an employer driven workforce initiative like Monroe’s NOVA to our area, and ideas for reforming sentencing laws to begin to address the crisis of mass incarceration in our state.

Does everyone have to work to address ALL of these issues?

No, the beauty of Interfaith’s model is that people from our congregation with heart for a particular issue meet with others from the wider community who want to join with them. Intefaitth forms action teams to work on each issue.

The next Collective Leadership meeting for Northern and Central Louisiana Interfaith is February 19 at 7 p.m. at Paradise Baptist Church, located at 1706 Hollywood Ave. in Shreveport.

We hope to see you on February 10th and again on the 19th!

Submitted by Susan Caldwell, Director of Lifespan Religious Education



CORNER OFFICE WITH A VIEW

To Live in Covenant Is to Live in Community



By Susan Caldwell,
Director of Lifespan Religious Education

At our December Congregational Meeting, **John Ratcliff** introduced the Committee on Ministry, the by-laws amendments creating the committee, and a summary of the Committee's mission. The Committee will evaluate the mission of the church, the way that all the ministries of the church are serving that mission, and where we might tweak them when they are not.

The Committee will undoubtedly be a great asset to congregational life. In the meeting, however, I noted that questions came up about addressing problems within the church, whether with staff or other members, and I thought that might be an excellent opportunity to remind you all of our Covenant of Right Relations.

Historically, Unitarian Universalists are a People of Covenant. Our earliest forerunners on this continent formed covenantal churches, certainly more traditionally Christian in their theology, but less focused on creedal tests and statements than on statements of promises to each other about the way they would be together in community. Though our theology has expanded to include a wide and embracing variety of belief and non-belief, our tradition of covenant remains strongly intact.

Our Principles are a covenant among our congregations and created by them, our classes and discussion groups of all ages always form covenants at the outset of our time together, and our congregation has a Covenant of Right Relations that we created together to help guide us in our interactions with each other.

The Covenant is available in a trifold brochure that is part of the literature we display in the church foyer. You may also read it online [here](#). The brochure contains not only the covenant itself, but details about its creation and the rationale for having a covenant in the first place.

You can read all of that for yourself, but here is the part I wanted to highlight. Under the heading entitled "Regarding Interactions," we pledge, as members, to ...

Attempt, when feasible, to resolve interpersonal disputes or grievances directly and privately, addressing conflict to the person when possible and making time available to accomplish this ...

Follow established procedures for mediation if efforts to resolve matters individually are unsuccessful; Use appropriate channels, taking issues to the Board in attempt

to resolve controversies involving programs, policies, finances or personnel.

So, while the Committee on Ministry can potentially be of service in resolving conflict, it will not exist as merely a repository for complaints, nor as the first avenue of resolution, which is to address one's complaints directly with the person involved.

If this encounter feels threatening or uncomfortable, a member from the Board or staff member may volunteer to be with you when you talk to the person in question, but the goal is to avoid triangulation whenever possible.

In the spirit of the Interfaith model that we are all leaders or potential leaders, I hope you will all take the time to watch this fun and informative little video on [Friedman's Theory of Differentiated Leadership](#).

If you haven't read the covenant in awhile, or ever, please do so, and remember that as a member of our church, you, too, have input and can bring forward for discussion a suggested addition or revision as you are so moved.

WORLD RELIGION DAY: THANK YOU!



Another World Religion Day has come and gone, and I have a number of All Souls members to thank for its success. Thanks to **Claudia Harris, Steve Caldwell, Rovena Windsor, Ron Thurston and Bob Jordan** for help with setup. Thanks to Rev. Susan Smith for speaking so eloquently for Unitarian Universalism on the second panel discussion of the afternoon, and to Choir Director **Robert Smith** and the members of the choir, **Danette Moore, Virginia Villarreal, Robin Harris, Bob Jordan, Gail Burt, Richard Denton and Phil Boswell**. The delicious lavender cookies and the awesome Lavender Cookie Chalice were, of course, the work of that creative baking genius, Richard, and I'm grateful to Richard as well as Steve and **Gale Gucker** for working at our All Souls table. Finally, I am more grateful than I could ever say to Ron and **Noah Wagstaff** for all your help with cleanup and to Rovena for all her work on the planning committee and for keeping track of significant portions of my brain, particularly the calendar portions. Many thanks to all!

-Susan

Learn More About the Proposed Open Burn at Camp Minden

This spring, the EPA is planning to burn 15 million pounds of M6 propellants outside at Camp Minden. This would be the largest chemical burn of its kind in U.S. history, it would last at least 200 days (assuming optimal weather conditions which never exist here for that long a time), and it would release harmful chemicals linked with birth defects and various cancers into the atmosphere.

Several known alternatives for disposal would be safer, quicker, and cheaper.

Although at present, the burn has been delayed pending further investigation, it behooves all of us as citizens to stay vigilant and aware of what is happening with this issue on a day-to-day basis. You can learn the latest updates and an action-of-the-day by visiting the Concerned Citizens of the Camp Minden Open Burn on Facebook: facebook.com/campmindenopenburn.

Other information and a very informative piece by LSUS Chemistry Professor and Interfaith Leader Brian Salvatore is also on a dedicated page at the Louisiana Progress website:

 www.louisianaprogressaction.org/

Submitted by Susan Caldwell, Director of Lifespan Religious Education



All Souls Member Ron Hagar attended an event for #stoptheburn at The Farm at Cultural Crossroads in Minden, Louisiana. Photo Credit: Annette Simmons

SWUUC CONFERENCE & ANNUAL MEETING

First Unitarian Universalist Church | New Orleans

The newly formed Southern Region (made up of the former Florida, Mid-South, Southeast, and Southwest districts of the UUA) will hold four Annual Assemblies simultaneously from April 17 to 19. The Southwest District meeting will be happening alongside the Florida District Meeting (Orlando), the Mid-South District Meeting (Montgomery, AL), and the Southeast District Meeting (Greensboro, NC). This year's theme is "We Are Building a New Way!"

The 2015 joint Annual Assemblies will feature an important vote which will help to define our relationships as UU congregations, clusters, elders, and staff in the Southern Region, and a keynote address by the Rev. Jeanne Pupke (broadcast to all of the district meeting locations).

District Boards, volunteer leaders, and regional staff are working together on plans to support our relationships as Unitarian Universalists without the current corporate district-based governance structures.

More information on the vote to dissolve district governance can be found online [here](#).

Submitted by Steve Caldwell, Denominational Affairs Committee



Religious Education Teachers, Nursery Volunteers Needed

The intergenerational service for our current pillar, World Religions, is Sunday, February 15. On the following Sunday, February 22, we begin our pillar on Peace, Social Justice and the Interdependent Web.

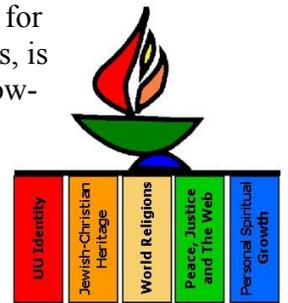
During this pillar, we use age-appropriate approaches in each class to deal with social justice issues including combating racism, sexism and homophobia, and dealing with bullying, as well as issues concerning taking care of our planet and ways that each of us can help.

At this writing, we have one teacher signed up in Pre-K for both this pillar and the next, Personal Spiritual Growth, but we need a second adult in that classroom, as well as two adults in each of the other classrooms.

If you have been a member or regularly attending adult for six months or longer, contact **Susan Caldwell** at (318) 465-3427 or at dre@allsoulsuushreveport.org to sign up or just to find out more about teaching.

We are also in need of nursery volunteers. We staff one paid nursery worker each Sunday and need a volunteer in there as well. Sign up with Susan or pop into the nursery to sign up.

Submitted by Susan Caldwell, Director of Lifespan Religious Education



KREWE OF ALL SOULS MARDI GRAS

Music by the MARDI GRASS BAND

Bob Jordan * Elaine & Chris Webb * Bethany Sorkey * Gail Burt

An eclectic mix of blue grass, Cajun, folk, and pop.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6 * 7 - 10 P.M.

Family-friendly event. On-site childcare.

Don't miss the children's shoebox parade at 8:30 pm!

Snacks and Cash Bar

KING CAKES from Lilah's Bakery

\$10 suggested donation at the door



2015 UU Summer Camp News

14-20 June 2015 Camp Murray Youth Camp (Lake Murray State Park, near Ardmore, OK). For 14 through 18 years old youth, age 19 if just graduated from high school (rising 9th grade to recent graduate). This camp is sponsored by First UU Church of Oklahoma City, OK.

28 June–4 July 2015 SW District Primary Grades Summer Camp (U-Bar-U Camp). For 8 through 11 year old children (rising 3rd to 6th graders).

5-11 July 2015 SW District Junior Grades Summer Camp (U-Bar-U Camp). For 12 through 14 year old youth (rising 7th to 9th graders).

12-18 July 2015 SW District Senior Grades Summer Camp (U-Bar-U Camp). For 14 to 18 years old youth, age 19 if just graduated from high school (rising 9th grade to recent graduate).

19-24 July 2015 SWUUSI (Southwest UU Summer Institute) – Location TBA. Additional details as we get closer to the event date.

Submitted by Steve Caldwell, Denominational Affairs Committee



Volunteer of the Month: Noah Wagstaff



The human aging process is fascinating. Watching children transform from the bizarre, unintelligible creatures that they start out as into something more closely resembling a sentient being can be quite jarring. And it happens way faster than you think.

In the blink of an eye, they go from knee-high upstarts only starting to string two coherent thoughts together to full-grown adults, who've managed to string three coherent thoughts together. Such has been my experience with our February Volunteer of the Month **Noah Wagstaff**.

I first met Noah more than a decade ago when he was attending Religious Education classes at All Souls. Somehow, in what seems like a suspiciously short period of time, Noah is now teaching the class. Like, as an adult. And he's doing a really, really good job. Watching him begin to slowly shoulder the responsibility of guiding little UU larvae in the first steps of their awakening spiritual consciousness is pretty impressive—which is not something I say lightly or often.

For his dedication and commitment to continue the UU tradition with the next generation (and because we're all still pretty impressed to see a 20-something voluntarily awake before noon on a weekend), Noah gets our admiration and a really convenient parking space.

Submitted by John Allen, Communications Committee

Kathy Osuch Named January's VOM

For January, **Kathy Osuch** was selected as Volunteer of the Month.

Kathy is currently serving on the Board of Directors as secretary and is the office volunteer coordinator. You can even find her in the office volunteering every Thursday.

Kathy was the lead organizer for the 2014 All Souls Annual Gala & Silent Auction. She also heads up the Media Sale and the Annual Plant Sale each spring. If that wasn't enough, Kathy is an energetic volunteer at the All Souls Garage Sale.

Mike Roberts, her husband, is pretty all right too.

All Souls is very happy to call Kathy one of our own. Thanks for all you do, Kathy!

Submitted by Melissa Gibson, Newsletter Editor



Kathy Osuch and Mike Roberts at the 2014 All Souls Annual Gala & Silent Auction. *Photo Credit: Sharron Foster Photography*

Membership Matters

Visitors Welcomed to February 22 Info Session

By Ron Thurston,
Membership Committee



In December, **Debra Payne, Edward Lawrence, Beverly Hollis, Jamie Rivers, Logan Byrd, and Sabrina Hunt** signed the Stepping Stones book. In January, **Tiffany and Taz Sanchez** also signed.

This is the first step towards membership. Thirty days after sign-

ing, all will be notified that they are eligible for full membership.

On December 22, **Tyrus Mulkey** became the newest member of All Souls.

Please take the time to introduce yourself to these fine people and make them feel welcomed to our church home.

This month's Information Session is February 22 and starts at about 12 noon, shortly after our service ends. The meeting is open to anyone inter-

ested in exploring more about Unitarian Universalism and membership at All Souls. It is held in the high school classroom—the one with the couches. We will share ongoing activities at All Souls, ways to get involved, and our membership process. Staff and members will be present to answer questions, and we will share spiritual journeys, as you are comfortable.

If you have questions regarding membership, please contact me at (318) 300-9509. Happy Mardi Gras!

DENOMINATIONAL EVENTS

20-22 February 2015 – SW District LREDA Conference (Kerrville, TX). A weekend of fellowship, learning and personal growth for religious education professionals and those passionate about religious education and music ministry. More information [here](#).

5-8 March 2014 – Living Legacy Project (Selma, AL). A conference honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Selma Voting Rights Campaign. In early 1965, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference appealed to people across the United States to join in the struggle for voting rights in Selma. Many Unitarian Universalists answered the call, including President Dana Greeley and members of the UUA Board of Trustees. Fifty years later, UUs are gathering with others in Alabama, for a significant civic, political, and interfaith celebration. Plans for this trip are still being developed, so we encourage you to mark the dates in your calendar and check the [UUA Southern Region website](#) for details as they become available.

6-8 March 2014 – SWUUC Women's Conference (San Marco, TX). The conference theme is "Our Sacred Springs" and Keynote Speaker is Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker. More information can be found online [here](#).

27-29 March 2015 (tentative) – North Texas YRUU Youth Rally (Ft. Worth, TX). This event is for high-school age youth ages 14 to 19. This information is subject to change – please check next month's report for updates. Submitted by Steve Caldwell, Denominational Affairs Committee

Highland Blessing Dinner

All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church co-hosts the Highland Blessing Dinner on the first Thursday of every month. On months with five Thursdays, all sponsoring churches are asked to send volunteers.



The intent of the meals is to serve individuals and families who may "fall through the cracks" of social services. Currently, more than 120 meals are being served each Thursday.

Volunteers are needed to host tables, serve, and help in several other capacities—but the cooking is already done.

Sign up with Susan Caldwell or just show up at the Highland Center, 520 Olive Street, at 5 p.m.

Upcoming Meal(s): Feb. 5 & Mar. 5

Building & Grounds Work Day



February 21

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

All ages and abilities encouraged to participate!

<p>Sun 1 9:30 AM Adult RE 11 AM Worship / RE</p> <p>1:30 PM LTA</p>	<p>Mon 2</p>  <p>5:45 PM Yoga</p>	<p>Tue 3 5:45 PM Yoga Sutras</p> <p>7 PM Great Questions Group</p>	<p>Wed 4 5:30 PM Choir</p>	<p>Thu 5 5 PM Highland Blessing Dinner</p>  <p>5 PM Support Group</p>	<p>Fri 6 7 PM Krewe of All Souls Mardi Gras Party (See Page 5)</p> 	<p>Sat 7 10:30 AM Meditation</p> <p>3 PM ADF</p> <p>4:30 Krewe of Centaur Parade</p>
<h1>February</h1>						
<p>8 9:30 AM Adult RE 11 AM Worship / RE</p> <p>1 PM Krewe of Barkus and Meoux</p>	<p>9 5:45 PM Yoga</p>	<p>10 5:45 PM Yoga Sutras</p> <p>6:30 Interfaith House Meeting at All Souls (See Page 2)</p> <p>7 PM Great Questions Group</p>	<p>11 5:30 PM Choir</p>	<p>12 5 PM Support Group</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 NO BUILDING & GROUNDS TODAY— Join us on Feb. 21!</p> <p>10:30 AM Meditation</p> <p>3 PM ADF</p> <p>4:30 Krewe of Gemini</p> 
<p>15 9:30 AM Adult RE 11 AM Worship / RE</p> <p>2 PM Krewe of Highland Parade</p>	<p>16 5:45 PM Yoga</p>	<p>17 5:45 PM Yoga Sutras</p> <p>6 PM Board and Council Meeting</p> <p>7 PM Great Questions Group</p> 	<p>18 5:30 PM Choir</p>	<p>19 5 PM Support Group</p> <p>7 PM Interfaith Leadership Meeting at Paradise Baptist Church (See Page 2)</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 9 AM to 1 PM Building & Grounds Work Day</p>  <p>10:30 AM Meditation</p> <p>3 PM ADF</p>
<p>22 9:30 AM Adult RE 11 AM Worship / RE 12:30 PM Newcomer Info Session</p>	<p>23 5:45 PM Yoga</p>	<p>24 5:45 PM Yoga Sutras</p> <p>7 PM Great Questions Group</p> <p>8 PM Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>25 5:30 PM Choir</p> <p>6:30 PM Pastafarian Dinner</p> 	<p>26 5 PM Support Group</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 10:30 AM Meditation</p> <p>3 PM ADF</p>

“We are not makers of history,
we are made of history.”
-Martin Luther King, Jr.



BATTLE OF THE GUMBO GLADIATORS

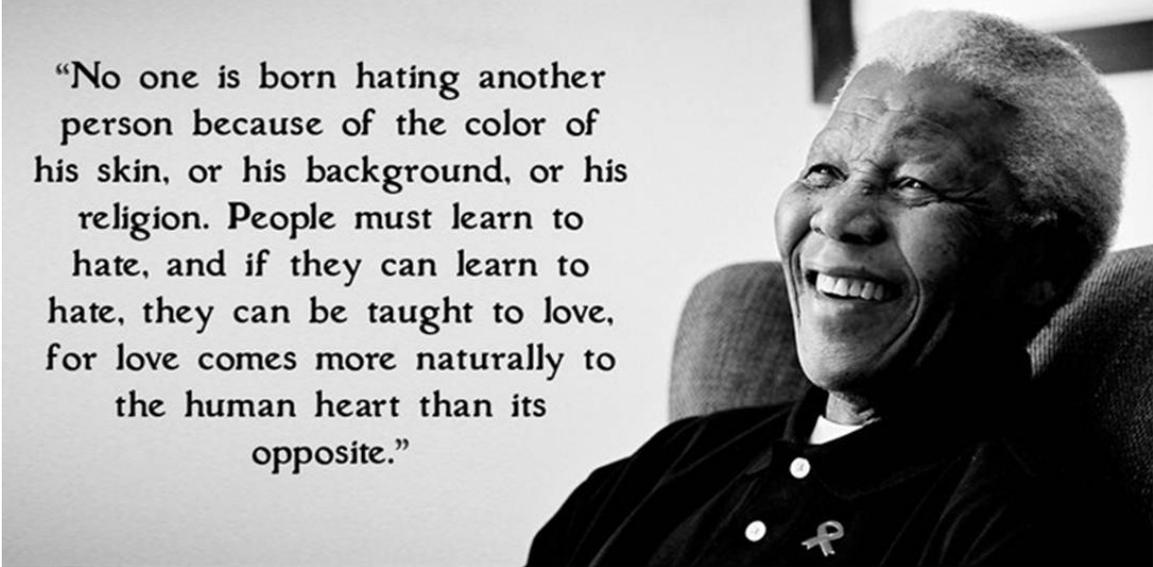
Volunteers for Youth Justice is looking for the 2015 Gumbo Gladiator!

To register your team, check out www.gumbogladiators.com

March 21

Festival Plaza - Shreveport

All Souls is pleased to be a sponsor of the VYJ's annual fundraiser.



“No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.”

Join us for Adult RE on February 8 at 9:30 a.m. in the Social Hall. We will be discussing the 2014-2018 UUA Congregational Action/Study Issue “Escalating Inequality.”