

February 2018

All Souls News

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

Board of Directors

President:

Bennett Upton
trollgr@gmail.com
Term ends June 2019

Vice President:

John Allen
taoistphoenix@live.com
Term ends June 2018

Secretary:

James Peck
jpeckiii@yahoo.com
Term ends June 2018

Treasurer:

Nicki McLain
nicki.mclain@gmail.com
Term ends June 2019

Member at Large:

Phil Boswell
philboswell98@gmail.com
Term ends June 2019

Member at Large:

Cindy Mandarin
greenpixies@gmail.com
Term ends June 2019

Member at Large:

Alice Normand
alicenormand@gmail.com
Term ends June 2018

Member at Large:

Juan Villarreal
jjvilla01@gmail.com
Term ends June 2019

February 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.*

February 4 - Rev. Barbara Jarrell is in the pulpit this morning as we continue our focus on our Third Source, "the wisdom of the world's religions which guides us in our ethical and spiritual life" A newcomer session will follow the service.

Board Persons of the Day: Phil Boswell and Alice Normand

February 11 - Our guest in the pulpit this morning is Rev. Dr. John Henson of Church for the Highlands, founders of and our partners in Highland Center Ministries. His sermon is entitled, "Living Out Fragile Freedoms and Ecumenism as a Baptist from East Texas."

Board Persons of the Day: Bennett Upton and Cindy Mandarin

February 18 - Rev. Barbara returns to the pulpit this morning.

Board Persons of the Day: John Allen and James Peck

February 25 - Rev. Barbara is in the pulpit this morning for the last time before she takes a month of sabbatical for the month of March. She will return on Easter Sunday, April 1.

Board Persons of the Day: Nicki McLain and Bennett Upton



Save the Date!

All Souls Annual Gala and Silent Auction

April 28, 2018

Watch this newsletter and your weekly emails for more info!

OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays through Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

OFFICE EMAIL office@allsoulsshreveport.org

OFFICE PHONE (318) 868-3313

CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office

(318) 868-3313

office@allsoulsshreveport.org

Board President

Bennett Upton, President

(318) 553-7321

Minister

Rev. Barbara Jarrell

(318) 393-5952

minister@allsoulsshreveport.org

Director of Religious Education

Susan Caldwell

(318) 465-3427

dre@allsoulsshreveport.org

Building & Grounds Committee

Jonathan Gibson

(940) 867-0985

airpower220@hotmail.com

Caring Connection Committee

Susan Bettinger

(318) 868-0863 – Home

Communications Committee

John Allen

(318) 525-7806

taoistphoenix@live.com

Food Folks and Fun Committee

Amanda Lawrence

(318) 402-3314

missdufour@hotmail.com

Fundraising Committee

Melissa Gibson

(318) 550-1296

(Text or email preferred)

melissainkdesigns@gmail.com

Membership Committee

Ron Thurston

(318) 300-9509

portlboi@yahoo.com

Social Justice Liaison

Susan Caldwell, DRE

(318) 465-3427

dre@allsoulsshreveport.org

Newsletter Editor

Rovena Windsor

(318) 532-2436 – Cell

rovenawindsor@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

is Tuesday, Feb 20

Early submissions are
always welcomed

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All Souls is a
Welcoming
Congregation.



FROM THE MINISTER

By Rev.

Barbara Jarrell



Again We Rise

This year has certainly been one unlike whatever we would have guessed before it began. We have seen the abuse everyone knew existed coming to light in unprecedented quantities and those responsible being held to account perhaps more frequently than had previously been the normative pattern. What is false is coming to light. At the same time rights and services for women, children, immigrants and the vulnerable of numerous other descriptions have at very least come under fire or at worst been eliminated altogether. So, if we are who in the Seven Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations we profess to be, there is a great deal we need to mindfully attend and address at every opportunity. I was asked to offer the invocation at the most recent Women's March here in Shreveport. I am not fond of public prayer. Still, when asked to serve in that capacity I feel that if I accept I can take the opportunity to acknowledge religious diversity in our City, Parish, State, Country and perhaps demonstrate a prayer that is not so automatically exclusive. As my newsletter entry this month I thought I would share the prayer I wrote for the March. I realize the language used in it does not represent all of our members either, but hopefully the introduction frames my intent. What follows is that offering:

Because there are many here from various faiths and religious traditions, because protecting freedom of religion requires of us that we honor that diversity—I invite each one of you now to in your own way and in the manner to which you are accustomed—tune your thoughts and intentions to prayer, or meditation, or purposeful connection with the depth of your Spirit, the Source and ground of all being.... God as you are given to understand God. May we enter now a time of intentional grounding in what is ever greater than the sum of any parts, without which our efforts would pale. I ask that you pray in your own way as I now share a prayer in mine.

Before all that is holy we stand, lifting our prayers and our willingness to serve Your high calling.

In Your Presence we have gathered because we have heard Your call and we have answered. We see that again time has come to rattle the walls and chains of prisons formed by untold and necessary tales. So, again we are rising.

We thank you for our voices if we have them and our feet if we have them, the privilege of living in a land in which we still have the right to peacefully assemble. Too long our voices and necessary stories have been disproportionately limited in the churches, in the government, in the corporate hierarchy, and in history books. Too often the pain of this nation bleeds out in violence. We have all felt its sting and suffered loss at the hands of clumsy narrow-visioned tyrants -- as we watched virtue, innocence and decency brazenly tossed aside. Women of every description, Non-males at every turn have

(continued on page 4)

REsources for the REsistance

"All too often, people hate what they fear, and fear what they don't understand. To engage with other faiths is to commit to greater understanding."



By Susan Caldwell,
Director of Lifespan Religious Education

As many of you know, our community celebrated World Religion Day on Sunday, January 21, 2018. I want to thank all of the members and friends of All Souls who either sang in the choir, worked at our table, helped to set up, break down, or prepare in any way, or just attended and participated. I'm grateful to Barbara and Rovenia, who spoke on panels representing Unitarian Universalism and Druidism, respectively. I also want to express my gratitude to Gretchen Upton, who brilliantly represented our faith and our congregation on the first-ever high school youth panel at the event.

Joining her on the panel were a Mormon, a Hindu, a Catholic, and a Jewish representative. While I won't deny that I felt a particular pride in Gretchen, every one of them gave me great hope for the future. Each one of them articulated beautifully the meaning they find in their own faith traditions yet never failed to show deep respect for all the others. To me, this is the only way we go forward, each of us willing to walk our own path with integrity yet still remaining open to others and curious about what we might learn from them. I'm

Interfaith Partnerships Get Stuff Done

Best practices say that for a church our size, one of the best ways for us to be effective in the community is through partnerships with other local congregations. **World Religion Day**, a yearly teaching event and celebration to help raise awareness and knowledge of our neighbors in faith, is just one way that we do this work. **Northern and Central Louisiana Interfaith** is a vehicle for accomplishing political change in our community and across the state, and **Highland Center Ministries** is a way that we provide direct service to people in need: Food, clothing, and low-cost loans and banking services. Three different missions, but together they serve the whole person, and the whole community.

saddened that our President and Congress cannot seem to follow that example.

As we continue our focus on our Third Source, "the wisdom of the world's religions which guides us in our ethical and spiritual life," I hope you are taking the time to learn about a path that is not your own, to take in the stories and the teachings, and to find whatever treasure might be waiting for you there that will enrich your Unitarian Universalist path. As I have said many times before, the idea is not to be "that church with all the religions," but to be that church where our religion embraces all the others, not in complete agreement, but in recognition that all have a piece of the truth to guide us on our own path.



Participants in the first high school youth panel to speak at World Religion Day were, left to right, Rachel Evans of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Gretchen Upton of All Souls; Nandini Tavakaran of Sadhu Vaswani Hindu Temple; Max Hyde of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church; and Lauren Turner of B'nai Zion Congregation. Photo by Stan Carpenter.

(From the Minister, continued from page 2)

borne this pain. Every one of us knows it. Rather than take up childish vengeance we have responded with the wisdom of ages---keeping and embodying the honor, and heart of this country so many have assaulted and dared to destroy.

Lord, you have shown us that this country cannot be divided if the women stand united. Help us manifest the love of our neighbors so we can hear the underlying concerns of those with whom we disagree. Put our fears to rest. Let us not be afraid for we know our hope is justified and the arc bends toward justice.

Help us to speak deeper truth born of compassion and grace that transcend parties and ideologies so that our voices will be profoundly planted in the minds of decision makers. Each time we gather for the interests and concerns of women, of people of every age, race, origin, orientation, background, history, identity, status, or ability, people who are LGBTQ, the disempowered, the voiceless, and the vulnerable --may we come together for the sake of all that is just, noble, wise, beautiful and true.

May we find the grace to forgive so that we are not constricted by our scars nor do we atrophy with bitterness. Guide our feet while we run this race. Hold our children in your care. Fuel our young people with Your inspiration and insight.

God of our hearts and many understandings, You who are above all names and naming—We lift our gratitude for every opportunity we have and every kindness we have known. We lift our gratitude for those who have come before us, taught us, sacrificed for the freedoms we have enjoyed thus far on our way. Following their lead, following Your lead, in the words of James Weldon Johnson “Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on ‘til victory is won.” May we now have the faith and courage to open ourselves to the Mystery of your Ways. Let us see clearly the way before us. Help us make ways out of no way. May we with Your blessing find ever-greater success in holding our leaders and public officials accountable. Those enamored with themselves and power are deaf to the cries of those by whom they were granted that power—including You! Let our resonant voice “rise high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea.”

May we recognize and follow only those who remain above the fray and lure of cheap politics and personal reward. May we always follow the truth and the light moving ever toward freedom, liberty and justice for all people. By grace we will continue to be the heart of this land and resurrect her soul in service to what is good, true, right and greater than us all.

A light shines in the dark and the darkness has not over come it.

May Your light so shine.

Amen. So Be It. Blessed Be.

Yours in ever-evolving faith,

Barbara



Membership Matters

Newcomers Welcomed to Information Session

The Membership Committee will be facilitating an Information Session following the church service on February 4. These sessions are held monthly to provide visitors and guests with a better understanding of our Unitarian Universalist faith. We will watch a short video from our Boston Headquarters providing some history of our movement with a focus on our

Principles and Purposes that we Covenant as a Denomination. Questions are encouraged and a sharing of spiritual growth journeys is welcomed as we get to know each other in a safe and supportive environment. Should you have any questions regarding Membership, please see me in the church foyer or give me a call. Thanks,

Ron Thurston
Membership Chairman
318-300-9509



DENOMINATIONAL EVENTS February 2018 & Beyond

23-25 February 2018 SWUU Women's Conference (Austin TX). For this year's conference, the keynote speaker is Texas State Representative Donna Howard, the featured musician is Kiya Heartwood, and the featured minister is Rev. Meg Barnhouse. For more information, go online here:

<http://swuuw.org/conferences/2018>

24 February 2018 SW LREDA Mid -Winter Conference: Saturday February 24, 2018, Courageous Faith: the future of Unitarian Universalist Faith Formation, presented by Consultant, Kimberly Sweeney. The conference will be livestreamed from Horizon UU Church in Carrollton, TX. Join us onsite 8:30 – 5:00. The conference is also available for virtual attendance by livestream. Cost is \$100 per person or \$65 per person for teams of three or more from the same congregation. Programming begins at 9:00. Onsite option includes continental breakfast, snacks, and lunch. Childcare available upon request.

23-25 March 2018 North Texas YRUU Youth Rally (Location TBD). For youth ages 14 to 18. For more information, contact the church office.

25-27 May 2018 Louisiana YRUU Youth Rally (Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge LA). This date is tentative. For youth ages 14 to 18. For more information, contact the church office.

22-27 July 2018 The Point This customizable family retreat moves back this year to its original home of Lake Murray, Oklahoma. Attend inspiring programming for all ages, participate in the multiple opportunities for leisure activity, or find your perfect balance of both. This year's theme is "The Good News of Unitarian Universalism" and our theme speaker is Connie Goodbread of the UUA Southern Region Congregational Life

Funny songs about
Peace and Justice

Rezist

All Souls UU Church

9449 Ellerbe Rd - Shreveport

Sunday, March 25

7 pm

\$20 or pay what you can

roy
Zimmerman

"With music this good
and humor this insightful,
there is good reason
to be optimistic."

- No Depression Magazine

Roy Zimmerman
Returns to All Souls!
 Sunday, March 25, 2018
 7 p.m.
 \$20 or pay *what you can*



We are delighted to bring Roy back to All Souls, and we hope you will be delighted too, and bring your friends!

ReZist is 90 minutes of Roy's original songs, a funny and forceful affirmation of peace and justice. "Sometimes I think satire is the most hopeful and heartfelt form of expression," says Roy, "because in calling out the world's absurdities and laughing in their face, I'm affirming the possibility for real change."

Roy tours the country constantly with his wife and co-writer Melanie Harby, and has shared the stage with Bill Maher, Ellen DeGeneres, Holly Near, Arlo Guthrie, John Oliver, and George Carlin, among others.

Please feel free to tear out or print out Page 6 and post it where you think it might be appreciated.

Submitted by Roy Zimmerman and Susan Caldwell

Try Yoga at All Souls

All are invited to join Valarie Lorigans for yoga on Thursdays at 5:45 p.m. at All Souls. There will be no class on Thanksgiving Day.

Bring a mat, if you have one, otherwise Valarie has a few loaners. Class fee is "by donation."

Valarie began her yoga journey in 2007 and is eager to share its benefits with others. She has attended numer-

ous workshops on yoga and completed a 200-hour Yoga Alliance teacher training with Ally Ford. She considers yoga a remarkable tool for building a sense of sharing and support among friends and family, and loves to watch others grow, finding strength and balance through yoga.

Valarie also teaches at Aspire Yoga Studio.



2018 Pledge Drive ***Are You IN?***

INcluded, INvested, INVolved

Give Away the Plate

All Souls "gives away the plate" on the last Sunday of every month.

Give Away the Plate recipients are selected by the Board of Directions.

Do you have a suggestion? Contact your favorite board member with the name and mission of your selected charity.

Building & Grounds Work Day



**Second Saturday of
 Every Month**

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**All ages and abilities
 encouraged to
 participate!**

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 1 and March 1

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 5PM Highland Blessing Dinner (Page 7) 5PM Support Group 5:45PM Yoga	2 7PM Game Night 	3 10:30AM Meditation 11:00 AM Pat Knott Memorial Service 3PM ADF
4 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship/RE 12PM Newcomer Info Session (Page 5) 1:30PM LTA 5PM Course in Miracles	5	6 6PM Together Louisiana Under the Texas St. Bridge 7PM TED Talks Discussion Group	7 5:30PM Choir	8 5PM Support Group 5:45PM Yoga	9	10 9AM to 1PM Building & Grounds Work Day  10:30AM Meditation 3PM ADF
11 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship/RE 5PM Course in Miracles	12	13 7PM TED Talks Discussion Group	14 5:30PM Choir	15 5PM Support Group 5:45PM Yoga	16 7PM Game Night 	17 10:30AM Meditation 3PM ADF
18 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship / RE 5PM Course in Miracles	19 6:00 PM—Board Meeting	20 7PM TED Talks Discussion Group	21 5:30PM Choir	22 5PM Support Group 5:45PM Yoga	23	24 10:30 AM Meditation 3PM ADF
25 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship / RE 5PM Course in Miracles	26	27 7PM TED Talks Discussion Group	28 5:30 PM Choir			
						



Mark your calendars!

Interfaith leaders will attend the following public meetings in February: to encourage parish governing bodies to make responsible decisions concerning local applications for the Industrial Tax Exemption:

February 8, 2018— Meeting of the Caddo Parish Commission at 3:30 p.m. (Pre-meet in the lobby of Government Plaza, 505 Travis St., at 3:00 p.m.)

February 13, 2018—Meeting of the Caddo Parish School Board, 4:30 p.m. (Pre-meet in the lobby, 1961 Midway Ave., at 4 p.m.)