

All Souls News

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

MAY 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.

May 7—Rev. Barbara Jarrell is in the pulpit with “A Thing of Beauty.” To notice beauty each day, in some form or fashion, is to reconnect to the web of life and to our own humanity. The service will feature music from the All Souls Choir, and two new members will sign the book. A newcomer information session will take place after the service. *Board Persons of the Day are Melissa Gibson and Jocelyn Lanham.*

May 14—A Mother’s Day Service with Jennifer Russell, Amanda Lawrence, and friends. *Board Persons of the Day are Phil Boswell and Eric First.*

May 21—Rev. Barbara Jarrell is in the pulpit. Our spring Congregational Meeting will follow the service. *Board Persons of the Day are Nicki McLain and Alice Normand.*

May 28—Affirmation Sunday, celebrating the transitions and milestones of our children and youth, and honoring our graduate, **Bayla Lanham**. *Board Persons of the Day are James Peck and John Allen.*

World Religion Day Speaker Series Welcomes Sister Martinette Rivers

Every second Tuesday, the World Religion Day Committee of Shreveport-Bossier hosts speaker from one of the diverse religions here in our community.

For May, the World Religion Day Monthly Speaker Series features Sister Martinette Rivers from Our Lady of Sorrows Convent will speak to us about Roman Catholicism, and specifically about the church today, in the age of Pope Francis.

Please join us at Unity of Shreveport, 670 Stoner Ave in Shreveport, on Tuesday, May 9 at 6 p.m.



A prayer for mothers

In these moments when what we perceive most acutely is our own smallness, when we cling to things we cannot keep as we are called to love what cannot stay

Comfort us as we grieve our failures, Our incapability, our losses. Strengthen us that we may see, and celebrate, our children not as something of or belonging to us, but as they are . . . as themselves.

And help us to cultivate the gift of presence, that we may take and recognize our joy as it comes in the small moments of the everyday.

Amen.

— Jordinn Nelson Long
Unitarian Universalist Seminarian



Join Us for the May 21 Congregational Meeting

To: All Members, Inactive Members, and Friends

In accordance with the Bylaws of our church, and as Secretary of the Board, I hereby announce that All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church will hold a Congregational Meeting in the sanctuary.

DATE & TIME: Sunday, May 21, 2017 at 12:15 p.m.

ON THE AGENDA: Elect four members of the board (president, treasurer, and two members at large); Elect two members to the Committee on Ministry.

Please make every effort to attend. All active members should attend this meeting or give their proxies to those who can. Inactive members and friends of the church are invited and encouraged to participate, but bylaws stipulate that only those members who have been active 30 days or longer may vote. We must have a quorum. Childcare provided.

Submitted by James Peck, Board Secretary

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

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

All Souls News will be on

Summer Break

for June, July, and August.

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All Souls is a
Welcoming
Congregation.



FROM THE MINISTER

An Uncommon UU Opportunity

By Rev.

Barbara Jarrell



For those of us whose complete experience of Unitarian Universalism has come from engaging with All Souls Shreveport, Unitarian Universalism can seem like a pretty novel thing.

What we understand about the workings, tradition, and history of this movement are perhaps limited to what was shared in one of the UU History classes that have been taught for Religious Education or the things we have shared in Worship Service, pamphlets, newsletters, Board Meetings, and announcements or your own outside reading and investigation.

While those who have been part of other UU congregations have had a broader experience of this faith, not many of you who have started here have been involved at the Regional (or former District) or National level. For this reason our movement can seem foreign and maybe irrelevant to our congregation's life. But we are in large measure beholden to the greater movement and we are still very much participants in the decisions and course it will take.

Like all large (and sometimes even tiny) organizations and institutions, the UUA has baggage and skeletons.

We, like the rest of

our nation, have gone through stages in waking up to and addressing our complicity in systemic biases.

We as a denomination (movement) are at another turning point of taking responsibility and moving into new not clearly charted territory. Much is going on. In a Worship Service that will happen before you read this letter we will address some of those matters – particularly regarding race—what we are calling the soup we swim in is “White Supremacy”—not something we would ordinarily recognize as part of our faith. Still, that is what the UUA teach-in is calling it. In our Adult Education classes we are working to grow “new ears” and develop new skills at walking the principles we espouse out into the World—those that would dismantle the systems that perpetuate that kind of bias.

I have asked the entire congregation to please read the book *Dignity: Its Essential Role in Resolving Conflict* by Donna Hicks.

We hope soon to begin having intentionally deep conversations with mutually selected groups from beyond our congregation, but we must first share trust in our own and one another's familiarity and competency with the particular skills we will be called upon to use. The book lays groundwork. We will, however, begin prac-

ticing what we hope to carry further.

The next book we are inviting you to read is *Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race* by Debby Irving.

You will be surprised at some of the things about which it will make you say, “I hadn't thought about it that way”—things that keep us part of the problem as individuals and institutions.

I invite you to be intentional about becoming more aware of what is afoot with the larger organization. This year General Assembly (GA), our national Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) convention is being held in New Orleans. Because the convention is intentionally moved around the country each year, this is closer than it will be again for quite a long time to come. Several thousand UUs will be there discussing and voting on our future.

Among whatever number of us decide to go, there will be several voting delegates who attend the business meetings representing our congregation. All registered attendees may be present to watch this amazing display of democracy in action – but only three selected delegates will actually be able to vote from our congregation.

(Continued on Page 6:
MINISTER)

REsources for the RESistance

'Guilt is like your grandma's rocking chair'



By Susan Caldwell,
Director of Lifespan Religious Education

As I write this, we are preparing for the #uwhitesupremacyteachin this Sunday, and still not completely sure what that will look like for our particular congregation. If you read my column last month, first of all, wow, thanks, and have I told you lately that I love you? And second of all, if you did, or if you have spent any time at all with UUs on social media, then you are up to speed on the internal UUA happenings that have spurred on this particular action.

By the time you read this, April 30 will have come and gone, but the work that is ours to do will be ongoing, and ideally interwoven with efforts already in place: in Interfaith, in the TWWin breakfast group a number of us have been attending, in Dialogues on Race, and various book groups around town.

One vital aspect of the work we have been doing around the book, *Dignity*, is to learn to listen non-defensively to feedback or critique. This is vital to so many aspects of life, and it may be one of the greatest challenges to those of us who are white and who like to think of ourselves as "good people" as we blanch (sorry) at words like "white supremacy." Already a congregant has approached me with the concern that these words sound "so harsh," and there is no doubt they can conjure images of the Aryan Nation, white hoods and robes, or even the recently dismantled monument in New Orleans that contained those very words.

Some have wondered if the whole point is white guilt, but as I heard at General Assembly a couple of years ago, "Guilt is like your grandma's rocking chair ... a whole lot of motion but it doesn't get you anywhere."

The point of using such a startling term in this context is to examine the many ways that, in our culture, white has been considered the default...the "supreme" standard against which all others are measured. The other problem with guilt is that it can be just another way of "centering whiteness," by putting the responsibility on people of color to soothe white people's hurt feelings.

We are great at remembering the proud moments of our civil rights history, not so great at remembering or seeing the ways in which white supremacy has permeated our faith tradition.

That is true of us, not only as a denomination, but as a congregation. Yes, All Souls was on the "watch list" for notorious Police Chief George D'Artois for its civil rights activities, and many of our members have been at the

forefront of those early battles, but the late Helen Pease, mother of Russ Pease and a founding member of All Souls, spoke of leaving the congregation for awhile in the early 1960s because of her disagreements with some members who wanted to maintain the segregationist status quo.

Even our congregation's late-80's move from a more diverse neighborhood to our beautiful woodland retreat was the result of a UUA recommendation to locate in a wealthier neighborhood ... a somewhat naïve idea based on the fact that UUs were statistically a wealthier denomination, but effectively ignoring the political, theological, economic, and yes, racial realities of Shreveport.

Unpacking white privilege, examining white supremacy, none of this is easy work, but it's a step on the way to making our home in the woods a true sanctuary in every sense of the word: A sacred place and a safe place for all who come through our doors.

I am reminded of these words from Sharon Wylie:

It is said that ministers are here to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.

I say, we are all afflicted, and we are all comfortable.

May our time together this morning be a comfort and a confrontation.

May we here find peace in times of tumult;

May we here invite tumult into lives of peace.

May we here find calm in times of restlessness;

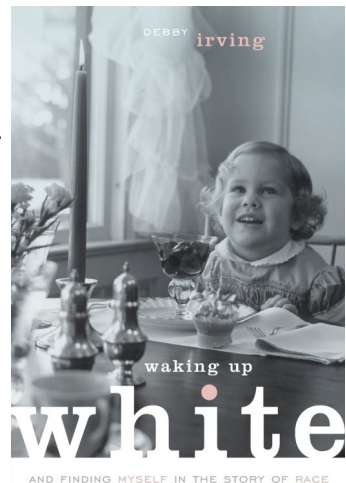
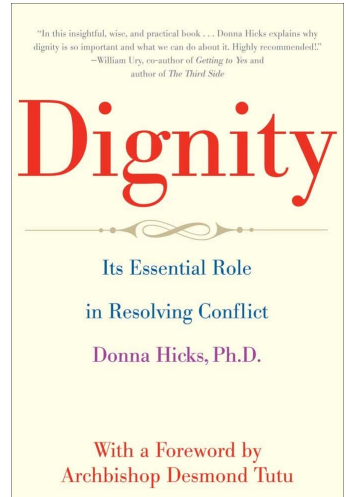
May we here allow restlessness to evolve into action.

Let this be the place you consider what you've never considered;

Let this be the place you imagine for yourself something new and unthinkable.

May this hour bring dreams of new ways of being in the world.

Come, let us worship together.



Work Continues with Grounds Master Plan

I want to thank the many people who have taken the time to offer feedback, ask questions, commit time, and generally participate in the early stages of our Master Plan process!

In the coming weeks we will be working on a visual board to help members and visitors learn more about what when and why we are proceeding with our objectives. This will be a work in progress that we hope will both answer questions and inspire you with where we plan to take the grounds within the next two years. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to ask me, **Cindy Mandarino**, or **Kathy Osuch** any questions about the Master Plan.

This Spring we have been and will continue to focus on bed preparation, including the following activities:

- Weeding, vine removal and clearing of brush and “trash” plants and trees that are invasive and compromising desired plants and trees.
- Widespread removal of poison ivy
- Treatment of Fire Ant piles
- Installation of several (movable) cylindrical wire compost and mulch bins
- Testing and amending soil in designated beds for preparation of fall planting
- Potting up desired plants from beds to be replanted
- Solarizing designated planting beds for one year
- Pruning and propagation of

existing plants

- Triage for desired plants and trees that are declining
- Minimal planting in Spring with a substantial amount of planting and seeding to take place in the fall.

How you can help:

- We will always need people to help in the gardens on designated work days (including but not limited to Building & Grounds Work Days). We hope to have four more half day events over the next couple of months to meet our goals before the worst heat hits home. Then we will be off and running again when things cool down in the fall. We also have several special projects to schedule, such as going to member or friend homes and dividing perennials or taking cuttings in order to propagate plant material for All Souls. Let us know if you want to help with one of these trips or can offer us access to pilfer your own garden of delights.
- We are developing a watering calendar so that newly planted additions and established plants get the water they need for optimum performance. There will be two water teams. One on the weekend and one during the week. If you would like to sign up for either team. Let us know. Details to follow.
- Please be patient. If you were here for our kick-off meeting, you will recall our discussion about several projects that will make some of the property “less attractive” while in preparation for

beautification. Some areas will be solarized with thick black plastic for a year. That may feel like a long time. Trust us. It will be worth it.

- Commit to co-ordinate with us as a group so that we are pooling resources and not working at cross purposes.
- If you would like to help with a phone tree or can offer rides to participants without wheels, please let us know.
- If you have special skills we might need for a project, such as carpentry skills (and access to a workshop), please let us know.
- We also need the following items donated if you can find them for us: milk crates, used 5-gallon paint buckets, kneeling pads, tarps, contractor garbage bags. Used plastic nursery pots. All such donations can be left in the shed, or co-ordinate with Cindy or Kathy.

Finally, here is the current list of wanted plants for division or cuttings:

- Oak Leaf Hydrangea
- Louisiana Iris
- Crinum
- Dwarf Monkey Grass
- Milkweed (any colors or varieties)
- Any Butterfly Plants
- Sedums
- Spider Lilies
- Day Lilies
- Daffodil Bulbs
- Salvia
- Agastache
- Easter Lilies
- Black Monkey Grass
- Dogwood Trees
- Redbud Trees

A more complete list will be made available inside the church.

Contact Cindy Mandarino at (504) 376-4765 or greenpixies@gmail.com or Kathy Osuch at (318) 658-1107 or kjosuch@aol.com.

*Submitted by Cindy Mandarino,
Grounds Master Plan Coordinator*



Membership Matters

Newcomers Welcomed to Information Session

By Ron Thurston,
Membership Committee



Our next Information Session will be held on May 7 following the church service in the High School/Middle School Religious Education Classroom (the one with the couches).

The purpose of these monthly

meetings is to provide interested visitors and guests with information about our church and about Unitarian Universalism as a denomination.

We will view a DVD from our denominational headquarters, giving a history of our movement and our mission of peace and social justice moving forward. We will also review the Membership Process.

Staff and Members will be pre-

sent to answer questions and discuss activities within the church and the wider community that maybe be of interest.

The meeting is open to all and held in a safe and supportive environment.

Should you have any questions at anytime regarding Membership please feel free to contact me. at (318) 300-9509.

Kevin Henry Named VOM

This month, we are delighted to recognize **Kevin Henry** as our Volunteer of the Month for his energetic contributions to every Building & Grounds Work Day, and the additional time he has spent working on the grounds when he has free time during the week.

Whether weed eating, blowing leaves, trimming limbs, or doing whatever else needs doing, Kevin has taken on stewardship of the grounds as a personal ministry.

He has also been a great ambassador for the church, bringing friends to services and other church events, attending and encouraging attendance at Game Night, Interfaith meetings, and other church activities.

Kevin's ride to church is encouraged to use the Volunteer of the Month Parking Space.



DENOMINATIONAL EVENTS MAY 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.

21-25 June 2017 UUA General Assembly (New Orleans LA). For more details, go online here: www.uua.org/ga

Submitted by Steve Caldwell, Denominational Affairs

Give Away the Plate

All Souls "gives away the plate" on the last Sunday of every month. Below are charities and totals for 2017's Give Away the Plate recipients.

Apr	HAP House	\$321
Mar	The Innocence Project	\$272
Feb	Highland Center Financial Services	\$257
Jan	Hope House	\$333

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.



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

Bossier Parish Library Historical Center Presents 'Purchased Lives'

"Purchased Lives" is a traveling panel exhibit that examines the American slavery from 1808 to the end of the Civil War in 1865, during which an estimated two million people were forcibly moved among the nation's states and territories.

The exhibit explores the history of the domestic slave trade, provides resources for understanding the profound impact of the trade on the millions of enslaved individuals who found themselves forcibly separated from their communities, examines New Orleans's role as the country's largest and most profitable slave market, and looks at industries that undergirded the slave trade, including banking, insurance, health care, provisioning, and textile manufacturing.

The traveling panel display and original artifacts come to the Shreveport-Bossier area from June 1 to July 13 at the Bossier Parish Library Historical Center, 2206 Beckett St., Bossier City. The exhibit is open to the public during regular business hours.

In conjunction with the "Purchased Lives" exhibit, Lynette Tanner will present her book, *Chained to the Land: Voices from the Cotton & Cane Plantations*, at a talk on Saturday, June 3 at 2 p.m. in the Historical Center's Meeting Room. *Chained to the Land* focuses on the Works Progress Administration's slave narratives from Louisiana recorded in the 1930s.

Submitted by Pamela Carlisle, Member

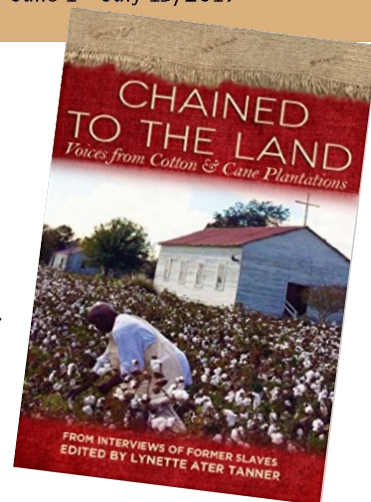


PURCHASED LIVES

THE AMERICAN SLAVE TRADE FROM 1808 TO 1865

A traveling panel exhibition from The Historic New Orleans Collection and the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities
Presented by Entergy Corporation with additional support from the National Park Service, National Endowment for the Humanities and The Kabacoff Family Foundation

At the Bossier Parish Library Historical Center June 1—July 13, 2017



MINISTER: Data has confirmed that the congregations which stay most closely engaged with the Association have a much higher likelihood of thriving.

With all that is shifting in the United States, the UUA, the Southern Region, All Souls, and the World, I

hope you will do all you can to be part of the processes and exciting opportunities for significant change—changes we believe in and stand for over and over again. Let us prepare ourselves for the not so comfortable and not so simple work that goes into transformation.

I know how very slow I am at this kind of to-my-core work, but I am willing and able and committed. Join us in "the joyous struggle".

Yours in ever-evolving faith,

Barbara

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

Try Yoga at All Souls

All are invited to join Valarie Lorigans for yoga on Thursdays at 5:45 p.m. at All Souls.

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.

"Yoga has changed my life, strengthened my body and calmed my mind. I have a

strong desire to share with others the healing benefits of yoga," Valarie said.

She has attended numerous 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.



#LoveResists



The Unitarian Universalist Association and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee are excited to launch Love Resists, a joint campaign to protect both the values of our democracy and the humanity and rights of individuals and communities most at risk.

Since the election of President Trump, more than 860 clergy members, 40 percent of UU congregations, and nearly 15,000 individuals have endorsed a Declaration of Conscience, pledging to stand on the side of love to protect the most vulnerable, defend core values under attack, and commit themselves to speak out and to act in support of basic human rights. Love Resists is the next phase in translating this declaration of values into action.

Get involved by signing the Declaration of Conscience, exploring our resources, and taking action to support sanctuary and solidarity in your community.

Visit www.loveresists.org to learn more, and share your stories of justice and solidarity with us using #LoveResists. *From UU Bulletin, a monthly newsletter from the Unitarian Universalist Association*

It is often easier to fight for principles than to live up to them.



-Adlai Stevenson, Unitarian

Connect at Shreveport Women's Power Hour

Women are leading the way for community change and justice! Connect with allies and advocacy organizations on Monday, May 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the Central Art Station, 801 Crockett St., Shreveport.

Learn more about organizations engaged in issues such as equal pay, access to health care, reproductive health care, education, sexual assault, community engagement, tax reform, improving education, and encouraging women to run for office.

Statewide groups present include AAUW, League of Women Voters, Legislative Agenda for Women, Indivisible, NOW, Coalition for Reproductive Justice, NCJW, Planned Parenthood, IWO, STAR, LIFT, EMERGE, NOAF, SPAN, and Louisiana Progress Action.

Beverages and snacks provided!

Submitted by Melissa Gibson, Newsletter Editor

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.

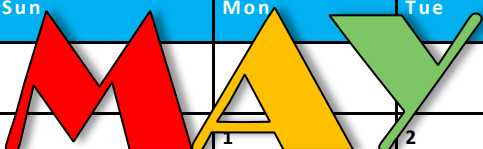








The intent of the meals is to serve individuals and families who may "fall through the cracks" of social services. Currently, more than 120 meals are being served each Thursday.

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): May 4 and June 1



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
	1	2 6PM Together Louisiana Under the Texas St. Bridge 7PM TED Talks Discussion Group	3 5:30PM Choir	4 5PM Support Group 5PM Highland Blessing Dinner (Page 7) 5:45PM Yoga	5 7PM Game Night 	6 10:30AM Meditation 3PM ADF 
7 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship/RE 12PM Newcomer Info Session (Page 5) 1:30PM LTA 5PM Course in Miracles 	8	9 6PM World Religion Day Speaker Series (Page 1) 7PM TED Talks Discussion Group	10 5:30PM Choir	11 5PM Support Group 5:45PM Yoga	12	13 9AM to 1PM Building & Grounds Work Day (Page 6) 10:30AM Meditation 3PM ADF 
14 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship / RE 5PM Course in Miracles  <i>Mother's Day</i>	15 5:30PM Women's Power Hour (Page 7)	16 6PM Board & Council Meeting 6PM Birdsong Music School Recital 7PM Committee on Ministry 7PM TED Talks	17 5:30PM Choir	18 5PM Support Group 5:45PM Yoga 7PM Interfaith Leaders' Meeting	19 7PM Game Night 	20 10:30 AM Meditation 3PM ADF
21 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship / RE 12:15PM Congregational Meeting (Page 1) 5PM Course in Miracles	22	23 7PM TED Talks Discussion Group	24 5:30 PM Choir	25 5PM Support Group 5:45PM Yoga	26 <i>Ramadan (till June 25)</i>	27 10:30AM Meditation 3PM ADF
28 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship/RE 5PM Course in Miracles	29  <i>Memorial Day</i>	30 7PM TED Talks Discussion Group	31 5:30 PM Choir	June 1 5PM Support Group 5:45 Yoga	2 7PM Game Night 	3 10:30AM Meditation 3PM ADF

THE UNIVERSITY OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PRESENTS A 2-NIGHT WRITERS' SERIES:

Putting Pen to Paper

A Poet's Perspective with Darrell Bourque

Tuesday, May 9th
6:00pm Meal/6:30pm Presentation
\$10/person (meal included) • Call to reserve


We are honored to host our speaker Darrell Bourque - poet, educator, former poet laureate of Louisiana, and professor emeritus in English at The University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He will be highlighting his recent work: *Where I Waited* - poetry exploring the lives and voices of early Cajun & Creole music icons tied to abstract expressionist paintings.

A Writer's Workshop

Wednesday, May 10th • 6:30pm

Now it's time to do some writing ourselves! Break into groups and work with a writing expert of your choice - Blogging, Creative Writing, Obituaries & more!

First Presbyterian Church • 900 Jordan Street • 318.222.0604 • fpcshreveport.org



Twilight Talkies at the R. W. Norton Art Gallery presents ...

The Princess Bride

May 12 at 8 p.m.
474 Creswell Ave., Shreveport

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and join us on the front lawn. Seating and food truck open at 7 p.m.

