

October 2018

All Souls News

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

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Term ends June 2019

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Term ends June 2020

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Term ends June 2020

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Member at Large:

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Term ends June 2019

Member at Large:

Open
Term ends June 2020

Member at Large:

Bob Jordan
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Term ends June 2020

Member at Large:

Ernie Cowger
email
Terms ends June 2019

October 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.*

October 7 - Our annual **Blessing of the Animals**, when members and friends are invited to bring their beloved furry, finned, or feathered friends (the sleekly slithering ones, too) right into the sanctuary for a celebration of their presence in our families and in our lives. As always, we ask that you bring your pets confined, either on a leash or in a carrier, as even the most docile of our animal companions can react unpredictably in new situations.

Board Persons of the Day: Cindy Mandarin and Bennett Upton

October 14 - **"This I Believe,"** another installment in our series in which three members of the church talk about where their spiritual journeys have led them to this point, and how Unitarian Universalism and All Souls are a part of that journey. Our speakers will be **Tena Hines, Kevin Henry, and Rebecca Tuggle.**

Board Persons of the Day: Bob Jordan and Jeff Gauger

October 21 - **"Good News in Difficult Times"** The 20th Century Unitarian Universalist theologian James Luther Adams said, "Religious liberalism holds that the resources (divine and human) that are available for the achievement of meaningful change justify an attitude of ultimate optimism." Do we truly have right and reason to be hopeful? Our children and youth will present some reasons.

Board Persons of the Day: John Allen and Ernie Cowger

October 28 - **"Dia de los Muertos," The Day of the Dead**, is a Mexican celebration honoring those who have gone before. At this turning of the year when many traditions follow the cycles of the earth and turn their thoughts to those who have departed this life, we will learn from **Virginia Villarreal** and **Lee Spruell** about this unique tradition celebrated in Mexico and among Mexican communities around the world. *If you want to do so, please bring a photo or possession of a departed loved one.*

Board Persons of the Day: Nicki McLain and BPOD TBA.

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

OFFICE EMAIL office@allsousshreveport.org

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

is Monday, Oct 22

Early submissions are
always welcomed

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All Souls is a
Welcoming
Congregation.



FROM THE MINISTER

By Rev.

Barbara Jarrell



Living to Save the Things We Believe

Here in the United States there are people in positions of great power (one in particular) who are actively working at cross purposes to every one of our Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations principles. Making no effort to feign interest in unifying our people, they make sweeping statements about this Country that fly in the face of all we have stood for since our inception. They refuse to acknowledge the inherent worth and dignity of children, of immigrants, of Americans without financial advantage and privilege, of people from diverse heritage and religious descriptions, and quite clearly of women. They are working day and night to take compassion out of our governmental agencies and our international relations while stacking the courts away from equity. They are anything but accepting of those unlike themselves and don't seem to have any spiritual awareness whatsoever. They have no respect for truth, conscience, the democratic process, the goal of world community, or for the interdependent web of all existence.

Our forbearers have taught us the need for persistence in the face of challenges to these precious values. At this point in our Nation's history everything that we hold sacred is under siege. It's our turn to live so as to save the things we believe just and necessary in our world. Our voices must not be silenced by fear or frustration. Our hearts must not fall faint from lack of courage and commitment. Neither can we let the hateful ways of others take away the Love that binds us to all that is worthy. Be engaged. Every one of us—every one of you—are needed! For the love of Truth, Freedom, Democracy, and all that is Holy...

VOTE!

Encourage every person you know to VOTE! If you know anyone who has chosen not to vote in the past whether from disappointment or disinterest—underscore for them all that is at stake in this pivotal season in America's adolescence. May we all find it within us to speak from that unshakably calm, deep, powerful place that knows the arc of the universe bends toward justice—that Truth will rise and that the dark will not overcome the light that shines in it. We can participate in the bending.

Remember the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:

"One of the great liabilities of history is that all too many people fail to remain awake through great periods of social change. Every society has its protectors of status quo and its fraternities of the indifferent who are notorious for sleeping through revolutions. Today, our very survival depends on our ability to stay awake, to adjust to new ideas, to remain vigilant and to face the challenge of change".

REsources for the REsistance

Let's Talk About Death ~ Whoohoo!

I come from a family of educated people of faith. My father was a Roman Catholic, while my mother was a Presbyterian who had grown up in the Methodist church, and who never converted to Catholicism. This maintaining of their separate faiths was unusual for an interfaith couple who married in the 40's and had a child in the 50's. Both highly valued education, both believed in science and honest conversations. I have said from the pulpit and in classroom settings that their very different political views taught me that people can still not only live together with those differences, but love each other, celebrate their commonalities, deal with their differences with honesty and humor, and even raise a child. It can happen. I count myself blessed every day that they raised me, and even in these divisive times, I look back to their example with hope.

They prepared me well for a lot of this life, but less well for their own deaths. I don't blame them for that. Our society has a problem talking about death. I can't generalize for everyone, but in our case, when my mother was dying of ovarian cancer after her second surgery and second round of chemo, my father and I maintained a ridiculous level of optimism that she would go into another remission and maybe even miraculously "get well." I have no doubt this was a survival mechanism for us, in which she was willing to participate, although we would find out later that she had spoken honestly to one of her sisters that she "hated to leave" us. While I am thankful in retrospect that we did have some very deep and serious conversations about many things around that time, death was not a topic we covered on any level.

Twelve years later, my father died in ICU surrounded by the technology that often prolongs lives of quality, but also often fends off a death that would be more welcome than all the interventions. In his case, it was honestly hard to say. Because his time in ICU after surgical complications was such a roller coaster of soaring progress and plummeting setbacks, all of the emphasis

was on his survival, and there was never a time to talk about his wishes for his own transition. I can remember one walk with him on the beach near his beloved Charleston, SC, where he said, "I should probably tell you where everything is that you'll need to know when the time comes." After a long pause, I said, "Maybe you could write it all down somewhere," to which he replied, "That works for me." For all of our education and rational thinking, there was probably some ancient Irish superstition lingering in the air that somehow talking about his death was sure to bring it on.

So I say all of this to tell you about two opportunities, in this time of the Turning of the Year in so many traditions, to look at death in a different way. There is a wonderful article in the current issue of the *UU World* by Kris Wilcox entitled, "What We Want at the End." The article begins with the premise that although many of us talk about the "ideal way to die" ... at home, surrounded by our loved ones, with songs, prayers, even jokes, and no extraordinary intervention, the truth of death in America is often just the opposite. Death is all too often the Enemy to Be Defeated, with all available weaponry employed till the bitter end. Even people who think they have all the "paperwork" covered for the ending they want, often find that thwarted for all sorts of reasons, because the line between life and death is never so clearly drawn in reality as it is in legality. There are so many of those transitional passages along the way that loved ones cannot always clearly define with medical directives as the only guideposts. It takes conversation, and not just one conversation, but many, inviting the elephant to come on into the room and chat, as opposed to waiting until he is right there and trying to avert our eyes. The article details programs in several of our congregations that
(continued on page 4)



*By Susan Caldwell
Director of
Lifespan Religious Education*

"From the Minister" ~ Continued from page 2

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter".

We all recognize that all of this matters greatly. May we be the Love that carries the day.

"The storm is passing over. Hallelu." I'll see you on the other side of it.

Yours in ever-evolving faith,

Barbara

REsources for the REsistance, continued from Page 3.

...encourage these types of intimate and detailed conversations that go beyond the medical details to our deepest spiritual foundations and how they seek to answer the "Big Questions." The article also lists several books by UU ministers on the topic, which I have listed at right.

In this same spirit of embracing death as the natural part of life that it is, we are honored to welcome local ESL teacher Lee Spruell on October 28, to present to us a service on Dia De Los Muertos, the Mexican Day of the Dead. Not a religious celebration but a cultural and spiritual one, this holiday grew out of a culture where several generations of a family lived under one roof, and the younger family members took care of the elders till the end. While these festivities do not take away the sadness and the sting of death, they also remind us to celebrate the lives of the people we've loved, and how fortunate we were to have them in our lives. As a part of this service, Lee will build an *ofrenda*, or altar, on our altar, and we encourage you to bring photographs or other artifacts to honor your departed loved ones.

Conversations for Thoughtful Endings

Growing All the Way to Our Grave: Conscious Aging and Mindful Dying (2018)

By Rev. Tom Owen-Towle

In Later Years (2018) By Rev. Bruce Marshall

While There is Still Light (2013) By the late Rev. Nancy Shaffer

Being Mortal by Dr. Atul Gawande

The Conversation Project (TCP), a series of structured conversations around end-of-life issues.



#RONFEST2018!

Party!!! ~ Saturday, Oct. 6, 7-10 p.m.

Honoring Ron in the Worship Service~

Sunday, October 14, 11 a.m.

The picture is from World Religion Day 2018, and in the picture, Ron is doing one of the things he does best and enjoys most: talking to others about Unitarian Universalism and All Souls.

As Welcomer Extraordinaire and the first face many of us saw when we first walked in the door, Ron has come to represent not only the face but a great part of the heart of All Souls! We will miss him terribly, and we have big, big shoes to fill as he leaves to start a new life closer to his children and grandchildren. **Now it's time to let him know that! Call or text Amanda Lawrence at 318-402-3314 to find out how to help with the party on October 6, and plan to join us for worship on Sunday, October 14.**

A Taste of Interfaith

NORTHERN
and CENTRAL
LOUISIANA Interfaith

Gourmet Experience & Silent Auction Fundraiser
Sunday, November 4, 2018 4:00-6:30 p.m.
St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral
908 Rutherford ~ Shreveport
For tickets or information call 318.465.3427

\$25.00 Admission *includes*

Food—A buffet-style dining experience featuring foods representing the rich diversity of our multi-faith community.

Music—An afternoon of uplifting performances from some of the choirs, soloists and ensembles of our congregations.

Shopping— A Silent Auction featuring a variety of items and services, just in time for your holiday needs!

Northern and Central Louisiana

Interfaith is a multi-faith, multi-racial, non-partisan organization united to bring about real change within our community . Current areas of focus are as follows, while other issues evolve as needs emerge .

- Tax Fairness (Reforming the Industrial Tax Exemption Program -ITEP)
- Workforce Development
- Promoting Community Policing and Public Safety
- Universal Pre-K

Proceeds support Interfaith's work in NW Louisiana

Northern and Central Louisiana Interfaith is an affiliate of the Industrial Areas Foundation.

**Like us on Facebook, Northern and Central Louisiana Interfaith
Follow us on Twitter @NCLInterfaith**

Membership Matters

Newcomers Welcomed to Information Session

The Membership Committee will be facilitating an Information Session following the church service on October 21. These sessions are held monthly to provide visitors and guests with a better understanding of our Unitarian Universalist faith. Attendees 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 direct them to Holly Brasher at 205-504-7341.**

Thanks,

Ron Thurston
Outgoing
Membership Chair
318-300-9509

We'll miss you, Ron!



Upcoming Denominational Events for October 2018 and Beyond ...

5-7 October 2018 Women's Retreat (U-Bar-U Camp, near Kerrville TX). For more information, go online here: <http://ubaru.org/home/Womens-Retreat>

10-14 October 2018 UU WomenSpirit Fall Retreat (The Mountain Retreat and Learning Center, Highlands NC). For more information, go online here: <https://www.uua.org/southern/calendar/region/uu-womenspirit-fall-retreat-0>

12-14 October 2018 Ships Ahoy! Youth Leadership Experience (U-Bar-U Camp, near Kerrville TX). Youth (ages 15 to 18) are invited to cruise on this amazing journey into Unitarian Universalism which will prepare them for membership and leadership in congregations and the Association at large. For more information, go online here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ships-ahoy-registration-36888626876>

19-21 October 2018 Men's Retreat (U-Bar-U Camp, near Kerrville TX). For more information, go online here: <http://ubaru.org/home/Mens-Retreat>

26-28 October 2018 Heart of Texas YRUU Rally (U-Bar-U Camp, near Kerrville TX). For high school youth ages 14 to 19. Cost will be \$75.00 per youth with no charge for adult chaperones. For more information, go online here: <http://uusat.org/heart-of-texas-youth-rally-2018/>

28-31 December 2018 Winter Family Camp (U-Bar-U Camp, near Kerrville TX). This weekend includes winter holiday activities and break-out sessions for adults and kids as well as multi-generational times. Fun, campfires, games, food, rest and a chance to celebrate some winter holidays together with folks at camp. For more information, go online here: <http://ubaru.org/home/WinterFamilyCamp>

Submitted by Steve Caldwell, Denominational Affairs

All Souls Saturday at Red River Radio!

Saturday, October 6 7 a.m.—12 Noon

Pledge Drive time is coming up at Red River Radio, and All Souls members and friends staff the phone bank to earn day sponsorships for the church. The job is easy and fun.. You work from a script, callers already want to give money, and there are snacks. Email Susan at dre@allsoulsshreveport.org to join the crew or learn more.



KDAQ Shreveport
KLSA Alexandria
KBSA El Dorado
KLDN Lufkin

RED RIVER RADIO

Volunteer of the Month— James Peck

For the month of October, the Board has chosen **James Peck** as our Volunteer of the Month. James turns up everywhere that good volunteer energy is needed around the church. Having just finished his term as Secretary of the Board, he is now teaching Religious Education. He has also been a regular at Building and Grounds Days, along with his entire family, and at Interfaith meetings. He often takes a turn running sound for worship services, and has spoken at a couple of services. For all that he does, and for the willing spirit with which he does it, the Board is delighted to award the Parking Spot of Honor to James Peck!

MEDIA SALE

Join the fun at the All Souls Media Sale! How can you join in?

Before the sale: We are seeking donations of books, DVDs, CDs, and *gently* used small electronics. Please hold on to what you gather up until Sunday, October 21st. You are welcome to drop your items off from October 21st through the 24th.

Setup: We will be setting everything up on Wednesday, October 24th. PIZZA will be provided for the volunteers.

The Sale: It will be going on from Friday, October 26th, through Sunday, October 28th.

You are needed in every stage of this event if it is to be successful.

For more information or to volunteer, please contact Deborah Warren at 318-200-7228.



Candidate Accountability Night

**Thursday,
October 11, 2018
7:00—8:30 p.m.**

Mt. Canaan Baptist Church
1666 Alston St., Shreveport

Join us at Mt. Canaan as Interfaith leaders engage with candidates for the Shreveport City Council and the Caddo Parish School Board in advance of the November 6 elections.

An Accountability Meeting is not a forum.

Interfaith leaders will ask the candidates specific questions concerning our agenda. These are Yes and No questions by design, asking if the candidates will work with us on our various agenda items:

For the Council: Criminal Justice, Neighborhood Safety, Property Standards issues that have been addressed, and those that still need addressing, and funding for Project ACTS, our employer-driven labor force intermediary.

For the School Board: Universal PreK and refusing ITEP exemptions from school board taxes.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
October						
	1	2 6PM Together Tuesday Under the Texas St. Bridge 7PM TED Talks Discussion Group	3 5:30PM Choir	4 5PM Highland Blessing Dinner 5PM Support Group 5:45PM Yoga	5 6 PM Worship Comm. 7PM Game Night 	6 7 AM—12PM All Souls Phone Bank at Red River Radio 10:30AM Meditation 3PM ADF 7:PM #RONFEST2018 Part I
7 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Artist Sunday 1:30PM LTA 5PM Course in Miracles	8	9 7PM TED Talks Discussion Group	10 5:30PM Choir 5:45 PM NOW meeting	11 5PM Support Group 5:45PM Yoga	12	13 9AM to 1PM Building & Grounds Work Day 10:30AM Meditation 3PM ADF 
14 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship / RE 5PM A Course in Miracles	15 6:00 PM—Board Meeting	16 7PM TED Talks Discussion Group	17 5:30PM Choir	18 5PM Support Group 5:45PM Yoga	19 7PM Game Night 	20 10:30 AM Meditation 3PM ADF
21 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship / Nursery Care 12PM Newcomer Session 5PM A Course in Miracles	22 Newsletter articles submission deadline	23 7PM TED Talks Discussion Group	24 5:30PM Choir Media Sale setup	25 5PM Support Group 5:30 PM Highland Carnival 5:45PM Yoga	26 Media Sale 4-7 PM	27 10:30 AM Meditation Media Sale 10AM—2Pm 3PM ADF Ritual
28 9:15AM Adult RE 11AM Worship / RE Media Sale 10AM—12:30 PM 5PM A Course in Miracles	29	30	31 Halloween			

Join us for #RONFEST2018!

Two opportunities on Oct. 6 and Oct.14 to say farewell and THANK YOU to our own

Ron Thurston. Learn more on Page 4!



IN THIS HOUSE, WE BELIEVE:
BLACK LIVES MATTER
WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS
NO HUMAN IS ILLEGAL
SCIENCE IS REAL
LOVE IS LOVE
KINDNESS IS EVERYTHING

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