



All Souls News

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

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

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 and till the service ends.*

February 7—Rev. Barbara Jarrell is in the pulpit with “Grow into Harmony.” *Board Persons of the Day are Melissa Gibson and Diane Bundy.*

February 14—“The Goal of World Community” The wisdom of the world’s religions is not only one of the Six Sources of our UU faith, but also a path to greater understanding of each other that can help to bring about peace. Join us as the children, youth, and adults of All Souls celebrate the end of our pillar on World Religions, and join us afterward for a special **Valentine’s Day Fund-raiser Lunch** in the social hall. *Board Persons of the Day are Amanda Lawrence and Eric First.*

February 21—Rev. Barbara Jarrell is in the pulpit. *Board Persons of the Day are Jocelyn Latham and Ken Peterson.*

February 28—This morning, we welcome back one of our most informative and inspiring speakers on matters of social justice, All Souls member and retired civil rights attorney **Henry Walker**. Newcomers and all interested persons are invited to stay after the service for February’s Newcomer Information Session. *Board Persons of the Day are Bob Jordan and Kathy Osuch.*

Pick up a Book from the New Little Free Library

The former organizers of Sisters of Miriam are pleased to announce that their bookshelf, which once hosted books dedicated to women’s issues and spiritually, will now be used as a general lending library, soon to be registered as a Little Free Library.



Books on all subject matters are welcome to be placed upon and borrowed from the shelves as needed. It is located to your right just as you enter the hallways from the foyer.

The Sisters of Miriam was organized by the women of All Souls, in search of spirituality beyond the pulpit. The organizers originally took turns hosting different chapters from the program *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven*; from there, other “spirit” searches continued.

Members from Sisters of Miriam got involved in different groups of study, such as other religions, finances, and human rights, it being the time of the feminist movement.

The Sisters sponsored the 1993 SWUU Women’s Conference in Shreveport, where the song “Welcome Home” was well-received and has become a tradition at All Souls ever since.

The Sisters of Miriam also sponsored the YWCA’s Celebration of Women’s Week, kicking it off with a Sunday service at the church.

The bookcase and plaque were donated by member **Maryanne Cummings**.

Submitted by Betty Parent, Sisters of Miriam

When I breathe in,
I’ll breathe in peace;

When I breathe out,
I’ll breathe out love.

— Sarah Dan Jones
VISIT UUA.ORG/WORSHIP

OFFICE HOURS Office hours vary; call first to confirm
OFFICE EMAIL office@allsoulsuushreveport.org
OFFICE PHONE (318) 868-3313



CONTACT INFORMATION

Church Office

(318) 868-3313

office@allsoulsuushreveport.org

Board President

Eric First, President
(318) 840-2197 – Cell
efirst@lsuhsc.edu

Minister

Rev. Barbara Jarrell
(318) 797-1957 – Home
(318) 393-5952 – Cell
minister@allsoulsuushreveport.org

Director of Religious Education

Susan Caldwell
(318) 465-3427 – Cell
dre@allsoulsuushreveport.org

Financial Assistants

Jan Daczyk
finance@allsoulsuushreveport.org
Laurie Lyons
laurie@walkerlyons.com

Building & Grounds Committee

Jason Lanham
(318) 560-4870
jall1101@yahoo.com
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
missdofour@hotmail.com

Fundraising Committee

OPEN

Membership Committee

Ron Thurston
(318) 300-9509
portlboi@yahoo.com

Pledge Drive Committee

OPEN

Social Justice Committee

Phil Boswell
(318) 573-3296

Newsletter Editor

Melissa Gibson
(318) 550-1296 – Cell
MelissaInkDesigns@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday, February 23 by 8 p.m.

All Souls is a
Welcoming
Congregation.



FROM THE MINISTER

Think on What Covenant Means to You

By Rev.

Barbara Jarrell



Once a year, Unitarian Universalist ministers from

across a five-state area that was once known as the Southwest UU Conference (or the Southwest District), come together to study, reflect, fellowship, and retreat. At each of these gatherings, whoever is at that time the senior colleague, that is, the one who has the longest service in the “district,” has a responsibility of reciting what is called “the discipline.”

He or she explains that before there were districts of the UUA, before there was a UUA [and certainly before there were regions], the Unitarian and Universalist ministers in this part of the country made a pact with each other—a covenant.

Because congregations and ministers were so few and far apart, because they were each so far removed from other Unitarian and Universalist resources, they agreed to be support for each other. If a colleague asked for something, the answer was YES. For this reason, nothing was asked casually or without much consideration for the responsibilities already a part of the life of the other minister or lay leader. This was the discipline.

If a request was made, there was a genuine need for assistance. There was also confidence that colleagues would be there for each other.

The covenant was to say “yes.” If there were any way at all to accommodate the request, “yes” was the answer.

The second part of the covenant recited is the agreement to meet a certain number of times every year so that each minister might have others to whom he or she is accountable. One gathering was just for colleagues, and the other obligations of the covenant were Summer Institute and Spring Conference. The covenantal bond has always been held dear.

For many years, Unitarian Universalism

thrived more so in the Southwest District than in any other part of the country, no doubt in large measure due to the commitment of its leadership to a covenant of healthy relationships and service.

Districts have now been dissolved and exchanged for regions. The covenant has been adapted to the pressures and demands of current times, but the discipline remains the same.

To this day, when the discipline is recited or read, the ministers present get choked up. It stirs something so much a part of ministry that it touches everybody there.

**“Covenants gain
their meaning and
value from the honor
and commitment
of those who enter
into them ...”**

To this day, we are in earnest with one another, and take the asking and answering to heart. The spirit shared is palpable, the dauntlessness truly inspiring.

Covenants gain their meaning and value from the honor and commitment of those who enter into them—commitment, even when it’s inconvenient;

honor, even when it’s difficult.

Like the Southwest Chapter of the UUMA, we at All Souls are a group organized around a covenant and a covenantal relationship.

We are a covenantal congregation.

We are a covenantal faith. Individually and collectively, we are accountable for the depth of heart and courage we bring to this relationship.

It is through our loyalty to covenant that our network of trust, respect, and honor gets its meaning.

I invite you to think on what covenant means to you, spiritually. The life of the spirit among us lives in the covenant. I can only imagine how vibrant this community could be if covenant came to mean as much to every one of us as it does to the ministers here. This is my hope, this is my dream, this is my prayer.

Yours in ever evolving faith,

Barbara

CORNER OFFICE WITH A VIEW

Gratitude for a Weekend of Social Justice



By Susan Caldwell,
Director of Lifespan Religious Education

When I look back on the entire day of January 24, the word that comes most prominently and joyfully to mind is GRATITUDE.

I am grateful beyond measure that I get to do this work in a congregation unafraid to step up and express solidarity with our Muslim neighbors, and to work in partnership with our Jewish and Christian neighbors in order to do so.

I am grateful, too, for those neighbors, who continually offer us new ways to work together to make our community a better place for all. I am grateful that I have the opportunity to pass on this faith tradition to our children, teaching them, also, to respect and not to fear those who may believe or worship differently from them.

I am grateful for the opportunity to teach and practice this faith that can serve as a “laboratory” for learning how to seek out common ground and also to engage and celebrate our differences without fear.

I am grateful that for 16 years now, All Souls has placed a high value on coming together in community with those of other faiths, so that we have been active participants in the celebration of World Religion Day since its second year of existence in Shreveport-Bossier, the

year 2000.

Indeed, in 2000 and 2001, we were the hosts of this event, till we had the happy problem of watching it out-grow us!

I am grateful to all of you who make this possible, whether with your time and volunteer efforts, with your willingness to speak up for the embrace of diversity, with your money given freely and graciously as an act of loving stewardship, or as with many of you, all of the above.

For volunteering at World Religion Day, whether

with setup, speaking on a panel, directing the choir, singing in the choir, working at the All Souls table, working at the Welcome Table, baking lavender cookies, fetching coffee, or staying to the bitter end for cleanup, I am grateful to **Rev. Barbara Jarrell, Rovenia Windsor, Ron Thurston, Richard Denton, Gale Gucker, Sam Normand, Jax Schmidt, Robert Smith, Susan Smith, Danette**

Moore, Pam Carlisle, Robin Harris, Bob Jordan, Gail Burt, Terry McNeil, Phil Boswell, John Barsch, and I sincerely hope that is everybody!

I am grateful, also, to **Melissa Gibson**, for taking the initiative to present a special service on Friday, January 22, marking the occasion of the 43rd anniversary of the Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* decision. She put together a beautiful service and gave a sermon that was “fired up” for reproductive justice.

(Continued on Page 5: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.)

***“I am grateful for
the opportunity to
teach and practice
this faith ...”***

Building & Grounds Work Day



**Saturday,
February 13**

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. 4 & March 3

2016 Unitarian Universalist Summer Camps

10-13 June 2015 Family Camp (U-Bar-U Camp – near Austin TX). For more information, go online -- <http://ubaru.org/home/familyCamp>

12-18 June 2015 Camp Murray Youth Camp (Lake Murray State Park – near Ardmore OK). This camp is for high school age youth. For more information, go online -- <http://ubaru.org/home/SummerCamp>

19-25 June 2015 Sojourner Camp (U-Bar-U Camp – near Austin TX). For children entering grades 3 through 5 in Fall 2016. For more information, go online -- <http://ubaru.org/home/SummerCamp>

26 June – 2 July 2016 Olympia Camp (U-Bar-U Camp – near Austin TX). For children entering grades 6 and 7 in Fall 2016. For more information, go online -- <http://ubaru.org/home/SummerCamp>

3-9 July 2016 Seeger Camp (U-Bar-U Camp – near Austin TX). For children entering grades 8 and 9 in Fall 2016. For more information, go online -- <http://ubaru.org/home/SummerCamp>

10-16 July 2016 Reeb Camp (U-Bar-U Camp – near Austin TX). For children entering grades 10 in Fall 2016 through 2016 high school graduates. For more information, go online -- <http://ubaru.org/home/SummerCamp>

24-29 July 2016 Southwest UU Summer Institute – SWUUSI (Western Hills Guest Ranch, Sequoyah State Park, Hulbert OK). For more information, contact the church office.

Submitted by Steve Caldwell, Denominational Affairs Committee



DENOMINATIONAL EVENTS: **February 2016 & Beyond**

26-28 February 2016 SW UU Women's Conference (Lawton, OK). Keynote speaker is Lauren Zuniga, a poet, activist, and teaching artist. She is the author of two poetry collections, *The Nickel Tour* and *The Smell of Good Mud*, and a finalist for the Oklahoma Book Award. Her work has been featured on *Upworthy*, *Move-On.org*, *BoingBoing*, *Autostraddle*, and *Everyday Feminism*. She is a three-time national slam finalist and one of the top-ranked female slam poets in the world. Conference musicians include SJ Tucker and Emma's Revolution. More information at www.swuuw.org.

29 April – 1 May 2016 North

Texas YRUU Youth Rally (Plano, TX). For high school youth ages 14 to 19. For more information, contact the church office.

27-29 May 2016 Louisiana Cluster YRUU Youth Rally (TBD – UU Church of Baton Rouge will probably host this event). For high school youth ages 14 to 19. For more information, contact the church office.

22-26 June 2016 UUA General Assembly (Columbus OH). For more information, go online at www.uua.org/ga.
Submitted by Steve Caldwell, Denominational Affairs Committee

AWAKENING VIBRATIONS

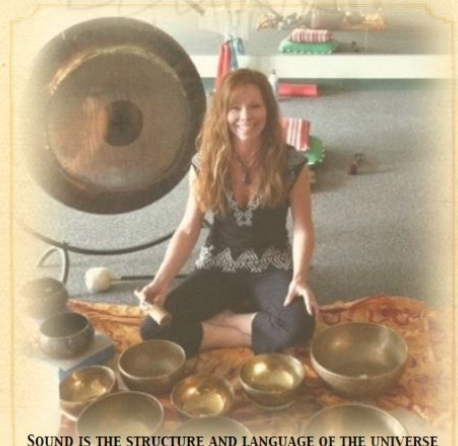
JOY CLEMONS, CSH LMT CPH

TIBETAN SINGING BOWLS & PLANETARY GONG MEDITATION

2/27/2016 - 4:30 P.M.



ADMISSION
\$35



SOUND IS THE STRUCTURE AND LANGUAGE OF THE UNIVERSE

COME JOIN US AT ALL SOULS UU CHURCH AS WE JOURNEY INTO OUR ESSENCE, MERGING WITH THE UNIFIED FIELD OF ENERGY WHERE HARMONY PREVAILS. WE WILL EXPERIENCE PEACE AND DEEP RELAXATION, ALLOWING FOR HEALING AND ENERGY TO FLOW

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JOY CLEMONS IS A CERTIFIED SOUND/ENERGY HEALER WITH 17 YEARS EXPERIENCE

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Cut along the dotted lines, fill out the “to” and “from” and hand out to your favorite valentines this Valentine’s Day!

Creative by Tim Atkins & Jessica Ferguson | Graphic Design by Jessica Ferguson | UU Media Works Facebook Group

Unitarian Universalist Valentines

*I love you
more than
fair trade
coffee...*



Almost.

Unitarian Universalist Valentines



*We go
together like
a flame and
a chalice.*

Unitarian Universalist Valentines

*i love you more
than thoreau
loved the
woods*



Unitarian Universalist Valentines

LOVE
is all
UU
need



Cut along the dotted lines, fill out the “to” and “from” and hand out to your favorite valentines this Valentine’s Day!

Creative by Tim Atkins & Jessica Ferguson | Graphic Design by Jessica Ferguson | UII Media Works Facebook Group

TO:

FROM:

TO:

FROM:

TO:

FROM:

TO:

FROM:

Membership Matters

Visitors Welcomed to February 28 Info Session

By Ron Thurston,
Membership Committee



This month's Newcomer Information Sessions is slated for February 28.

Grab a cup of coffee after the service and join us in the middle/high

school classroom—the one with the couches.

The meeting is open to anyone interested in exploring more about Unitarian Universalism and membership at All Souls.

We will watch a short DVD from our UUA headquarters, spotlighting our principles, our history, and our ongoing mission in the world. We

will also 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 see me before or after church or contact me at (318) 300-9509.

All Souls Media Sale: A Success Story

The All Souls Media Sale raised more than \$400 this year.

Thank you to all who donated books and other media to the event.

A special thank you to the volunteers who spent hours categorizing books and overseeing the sale each day: **JoDel Adkins, Susan Bettinger, Phil Boswell, Susan Caldwell, Richard Denton, Patrick Early, Carol Graywing, Melissa Gibson, Ron Hagar, Bob Jordan, Laurie Lyons, Jax Schmidt, and Ron Thurston.**

Leftovers were circulated into the Little Free Library system and donated to the Centenary Book Sale and Noel Neighborhood Ministries Food Pantry.

Please keep the All Souls Media Sale in mind as you gather up unwanted books, DVDs, and vinyl throughout the year!

Submitted by Melissa Gibson, Newsletter Editor



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

Finally, I am grateful to my husband, Steve Caldwell, who went down to Festival Plaza to stand for a woman's right to choose, and who spoke with a strong, calm voice to TV reporters and anti-choice demonstrators alike in opposition to criminalizing women and their doctors, and in support of expanded access to health care for all people, a move that may ultimately bring us closer to "safe, legal and rare" than all the graphic pictures of fetuses ever could. Thank you, All Souls, for a weekend of standing up for justice.

Richard Denton Named February's Volunteer of the Month

The All Souls Board of Directors is pleased to announce **Richard Denton** as December's Volunteer of the Month.

Richard is a recognizable member of the All Souls Choir and regular contributor to our many potlucks (particularly noted for his lavender cookies).

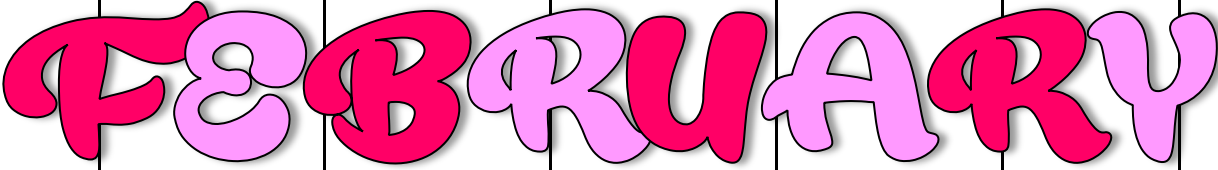






Most recently, Richard represented Unitarian Universalism at World Religion Day and helped categorize books for the All Souls Media Sale.

Richard is a regular at the Highland Blessing Dinner. He has also taught Children's Religious Education and lead children's summer activities. Richard is particularly gifted in the art of tie dye, a much needed talent in any UU congregation.

Thank you to Richard for all you to make All Souls a great place to belong.

Submitted by Melissa Gibson, Newsletter Editor



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
	1 	2  Groundhog's Day	3 5:30 PM Choir	4 5 PM Support Group 5 PM Highland Blessing Dinner 	5 7 PM Game Night 	6 10:30 AM Meditation 3 PM ADF
7 9:15 AM Adult RE 11 AM Worship / RE 1:30 pm LTA 1 PM Highland Parade	8 5:45 PM Yoga 7 PM TED Talks Discussion Group Chinese New Year	9 	10 5:30 PM Choir	11 5 PM Support Group	12 	13 9AM to 1 PM Building & Grounds Workday 10:30 AM Meditation 3PM ADF
14 9:15 AM Adult RE 11 AM Worship (Intergenerational) 12 PM Valentine's Lunch Fundraiser 	15 5:45 PM Yoga 7 PM TED Talks Discussion Group	16 6 PM Board & Council Meeting	17 5:30 PM Choir	18 5 PM Support Group 7 PM Interfaith Leaders Meeting	19 7 PM Game Night 	20 10:30 AM Meditation 3 PM ADF
21 9:15 AM Adult RE 11 AM Worship / RE Peace, Social Justice, and the Interdependent Web Pillar Begins	22 5:45 PM Yoga 7 PM TED Talks Discussion Group	23 7 PM Public Hearing on Clean Harbors Colfax at Grant Parish Civic Center 8 PM Newsletter Deadline	24 5:30 PM Choir 	25 5 PM Support Group	26 	27 10:30 AM Meditation 3 PM ADF 4:30 PM Gong Meditation with Joy Clemons (See Page 4)
28 9:15 AM Adult RE 11 AM Worship/RE	29 5:45 PM Yoga 7 PM TED Talks Discussion Group	MARCH 1	2 5:30 PM Choir	3 5 PM Support Group 5 PM Highland Blessing Dinner	4 7 PM Game Night	5 10:30 AM Meditation 3 PM ADF