

February 2019

IN SPIRIT NEWSLETTER

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS CHURCH OF HOT SPRINGS

Welcoming Congregation for Religious
Liberalism

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our congregation! We as Unitarian Universalists welcome you, whomever you are, regardless of race, creed, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or physical or mental ability. We strive together as a community to celebrate diversity and to investigate together the spiritual questions that concern us all.

Who are Unitarian Universalists? They can be Christian, Jews, Buddhists, Agnostics, Atheists, Muslims, Pagan, or Other. The one thing we all have in common is that we respect each other for who we are, where we come from, and our reasons for seeking spiritual connectiveness with each other. We believe in making this world a better and just world for everyone.

Welcome!

SPEAKERS FOR JANUARY

February 3- Chris Bakle "First Principle, Worth and Dignity in Every Person Relating to Human Needs."

February 10 – Valentine Service – Linda Puckett "Thoughts on **Love.**"

February 17 – Bob VanHook "Symbols Stifle Substance."

February 24- UUWA Conference- Speaker: Casey Wylie "What Haven't You Done" An interactive Discussion about Fear



Happy Valentine's
Day!

RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION

Religious Exploration will begin at 9:00 am to 10 am the first and 3rd Sunday of each month. Join us to discuss various Ted Talks. Feel free to bring Ted Topics that you would like to recommend for discussion.

Wisdom Seekers meet on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month from 9:00 to 10:00 each month. The book currently being studied is “The book currently being studied is “Fantasy Land, How America went Haywire.

DISCUSSION/COMFORT GROUP

A discussion group is available to church members on the second Friday night of each month beginning at 6:00 pm. Jason Nickerson invites all those who will benefit from this group to attend. We all need people at some time or another. Thanks, Jason, for all you do for the church.



YOGA

Bryan leads yoga classes on Wednesday nights beginning at 6:00 pm. It is a very fun, relaxing time for our church members. Bryan accepts donations for his instruction. Please check updates on Facebook UU Open Group for the dates in February that he will be able to teach class. Come join us and feel your worries dissolve!

CHOIR PRACTICE



This Photo by Helene...

The “Birds” Choir Group meets most Thursday nights at 5:15 pm at the church. Singing is good for your soul! If you have a singing experience (or not) come join the group. We practice for Sunday Service.

WOMEN’S SWU UW CONFERENCE



by Linda Puckett

Thanks to each of you who contributed to the SWU UW Scholarship Fund and made it possible for the organization to fund all 17 applicants. Registration has sneaked up to over 90 and all plans are on track for a terrific event February 22-24. Ladies watch your email for notice for a work/training for the early part of February. Everyone, please plan to attend church on February 24th and meet the conference attendees who come to join us at our service that day. For additional information, please contact Linda Puckett at lindy4laughs@yahoo.com or 405-627-6840.

The schedule for the Conference is as follows:

About SWU UW

Mission

A non-profit organization that supports women through worship, learning, leadership, community and social justice, SWU UW addresses women's issues, explores feminist theology, promotes friendships and celebrates the diversities that make us unique women on our individual spiritual paths. SWU UW is an organization open to all UU women, particularly those women in the Southwest District of the Southern Region of the UUA.

[pdf SWU UW Brochure 2016 Sept \(259 KB\)](#)
SWU UW aligns itself with the spirit of Welcoming Congregations as depicted by the UUA. All who see themselves as women are welcome

SWU UW Conference Schedule 2019

FRIDAY Feb. 22

- Please note Friday dinner is on your own. The hotel has a restaurant and your welcome packet includes a listing of nearby restaurants.
- 3:00 pm Hotel check-in begins.
- Conference registration desk opens.
- Raffle Ticket sales begin - Proceeds support scholarship fund. Items donated by vendors.
- Silent Auction items on display.
- Bazaar opens (closed during Opening Ceremony and at 9:00pm). Each conference vendor has generously donated an item for the Raffle. Your ticket purchases help support the conference Scholarship Fund.
- Red Tent Room opens (closes at 10:00 pm). **Ask for room number at Registration Table.**
- 4:00 - 5:30 pm Hot Springs Trolley Tour - Gather in front of the hotel where trolleys will pick us up. **Cost: \$18 when registering.**
- 4:00 - 7:00 pm Settling in, touring on foot, early dining time.

- 7:00 - 7:45 pm Opening Ceremony - Begin finding **Peace and Healing in the Valley of the Vapors.**
Reverend Jan K. Nielsen, UUCLR
- After the ceremony... Gather with friends or set out on your own for dinner and to explore Central Ave.
- Shop at the Bazaar until 9 pm.
- Spend time in the Red Tent Room relaxing, conversing, playing, getting a henna painting.
- Drumming on the veranda - weather permitting.

SATURDAY Feb. 23

- 6:00 - 9:00 am Complimentary breakfast buffet for Hotel Hot Springs guests. Pre-paid \$12.00 breakfast tickets will be in your badge holder. **If you are not staying at the hotel but wish to have breakfast here, please buy a \$12 breakfast ticket when registering.**
- 7:00 am Yoga with Roxy Westhues - Location TBD. Bring your own mat.
- All Day Registration Desk open.
- Raffle Tickets available and Silent Auction items viewable.

Bazaar open from 10:00 am - 9:00 pm.

Red Tent Room open until 10:00 pm.

8:30 am Welcome to your beautiful day - music and laughter.

9:00 am Opening Service (Homily) - Rev. Jan K. Nielsen, UUCLR

9:15 - 10:15 am Keynote Address - Kathy Webb, Vice-Mayor, Little Rock, AR

10:30 - 11:50 am Morning Workshop Session - AM 1

12 - 1:15 pm Luncheon, SWUW Annual Meeting (for all conference attendees).

1:30 - 3:00 pm First Afternoon Workshop Session - PM 1

3:15 - 4:45 pm Second Afternoon Workshop Session - PM 2

5:00 - 5:30 pm Old board/New board Meeting - Location TBD

5:30 - 6:30 pm Happy Hour Reception - Cash Bar.

Last chance to purchase Raffle Tickets.

Place bids for Silent Auction.

6:45 - 10:00 pm Banquet Dinner

Silent Auction

8:00 - 10:00 pm Musical Entertainment by Cassie Lea Ford and Christine DeMeo.

**SUNDAY
Feb. 24**

Check out time is 11:00am. The hotel will gladly hold your bags in the lobby area until you are ready to leave.

6:00 - 9:00 am Complimentary breakfast buffet for Hotel Hot Springs guests. Pre-paid \$12.00 breakfast tickets will be in your badge holder. **If you are not staying at the hotel but wish to have breakfast here, please buy a \$12 breakfast ticket when registering.**

7:00 am Yoga with Roxy Westhues - Location TBD. Bring your own mat.

9:00 am Closing Ceremony.

Spiral Dance with Gretchen Ohmann.

10:30 am Worship at Unitarian Universalist Church of Hot Springs, 100 Norwalk Street, Hot Springs, AR 71901

Hospitality Hour is 9:30 - 10:30am in the downstairs of the UUCHS building.



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SPOTLIGHT ON CHURCH MEMBER



Our Spotlight on new church member this month is on Rafael Bejarano. Rafael recently joined the Hot Springs Unitarian Universalist Church. He and his wife, Beverly, (also a new member) have been married

for 26 years. They have a 25-year-old daughter, Katarina, who will complete her degree in Exercise Physiology this semester. In Addition, Rafael has one older brother and is fortunate to have both parents still living.

Rafael was born in Sonora, a Mexican State that borders Arizona. He lived there until he was nine years old until his family moved to Tucson, Arizona where he lived for 20 years. Therefore, Tucson feels more like home to him than Mexico.

Higher Education is very important to the Bejarano family. Rafael received a B.A. in Psychology from Prescott College, a small liberal arts college in Arizona. After graduating, Rafael and his family moved to Gainesville, Florida where he achieved a M.A. and PhD. in Experimental Psychology. After obtaining his PhD. he was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Kansas for three years.

Rafael's professional interest are in the psychology of learning. He began the research component of his career during his graduate program. He conducted research at that time that resulted in the publications of several papers and presentations at professional conferences. He continued presenting and publishing the results of research, both during his time at KU and at his current teaching job at Henderson state University. His teaching career began during his graduate studies where he taught

introductory psychology courses. He has taught 15 years at Henderson State University where he is now employed.

Rafael was born blind. Despite his blindness, his education and career goals were achieved by learning to accommodate for his lack of sight. He accommodates his blindness by using a computer screen software. Computer screen software speaks whatever happens whatever in under the cursor, including letters, punctuation, numbers, symbols, and spaces. The screen reader also reads what he has just typed so he can receive immediate feedback o any spelling errors he might have made. He uses power point presentations in the classroom instead of using a marker board. His screen reader helps him prepare power point presentations and make and grade tests, etc. He navigates on campus using a white cane and echo location as aids to navigation. After someone has worked with him to learn the route to a new location, he becomes confident on how to travel to buildings and classrooms.

For hobbies, Rafael likes to play the guitar, try new asian cuisine, trying new beers, and reading fantasy novels. He reads nonfiction too but suspects most people would not consider such reading a hobby.

Spiritually to Rafael means something different to him. "The word "spiritual" is rather vague.' says Rafael. He believes he can address two of its connotations. First, he tries to refrain from making untestable metaphysical assertions. For example, that deities do or do not exist or that something of ourselves exists after we die. Second, he tries to comport himself to cause as little suffering as possible to other living beings, and if I am able, also to mitigate suffering.

Thank you, Rafael, for all you do and for teaching that us all about the importance of the human will and spirit. We all look forward to conversing with and learning from you again.

DRUMMING WITH DEE



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A reminder that drumming with Dee will be held each Monday in February from 5:30-6:30 each Monday in February. For more information contact Dee Marion at dpmorder@gmail.com.



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Don't forget to get a gift for your special person on February 14th!

Please submit any suggestions for the Newsletter or the New Web Page to Audrey Smelser at crowha07@sbcglobal.net. Thanks, and have a wonderful February and Valentine's Day!



Street Cleanup Day: Oliver Driver, Linda Puckett, Dee Marion, Judy Christa-Cathey, and Rocky Vannucci. Thank you for your service to this Community Service Project!



LGBT GROUP MEETING



Screening of the Movie "To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything Julie Newmar" at UU Church beginning at

3:00 pm. Elite Manhattan Drag Queens Vida Boheme (Patrick Swayzee) and Noxema Jackson (Wesley Snipes) impress regional judges in competition, securing berths in the Nationals in Los Angeles. They meet new comer Chi-Chi Rodriguez (John Leguizamo) one of the losers of

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the competition. The three set off on a road trip.
All mayhem happens. Come to the Hot Springs
UU Church to enjoy the movie.