# IN SPIRIT NEWSLETTER

# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS CHURCH OF HOT SPRINGS

Welcoming Congregation for Religious Liberalism

# **BOARD MEMBERS:**

Jesse Davis - President

Linda Puckett - Vice President

John Nino - Treasurer

Ann Hair - Secretary

Values in Action (Programs) -Joe Sturgill

Membership - Jason Nickerson

Community Action (Social Justice) - Casey Wiley

Publicity Relations Chair- Audrey Smelser



## **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.



#### **GUEST SPEAKERS FOR MARCH**

March 3<sup>rd</sup>- "Celebrating Mardi Grad with Dixieland Band"

March 10<sup>th</sup>- "Near Death Experiences" - Pat Farnan

March 17th- TBA

March 24th- Rev. Mark Walz

#### **RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION**

**Religious Exploration** will begin at 9:00 am to 10 am the first and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

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 March that he will be able to teach class. Come join us and feel your worries dissolve!

#### CHOIR PRACTICE



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.

## **UPDATED CHURCH WEB SITE**

Jason Nickerson has been working with Aaron to update our website. Please check it out for current information about church service and other upcoming activities. Audrey will be posting current events to the web site. This is another place that you can keep up with what's happening at the church. For those who are members of Facebook, we have an open group for Hot Springs Unitarian Universalist Church members and friends. We will be posting upcoming events there too. There are now four places you can learn about activities at the The monthly newsletter, the church: uuchurchhotsprings.org web site, weekly emails sent out by the publicist, and Facebook. In addition, the monthly calendar is available on Facebook open group site. Just click on the calendar icon in the open group section of Facebook. Have any questions about how to

access this information? Ask Jason or Audrey and they will be happy to show you how to navigate to the Facebook or Web site. We are now full participating members of the Technological Age.

#### JACKSON HOUSE VOLUNTEERS



# **VOLUNTEERS AT JACKSON HOUSE**

On Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>, HSUU Church assisted the Jackson House with preparing and serving lunch to 100 people in need. It was a cold, cold January Day and we thank (from left to right) an ACTI Intern, Dorothy Clark, Dee Marion, Carl Bakle, Linda Puckett, Chris Bakle, Rico Donovan, John Nino, and an ACTI intern. Thanks to all of you for your community Service!

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

By: John Nino

Financial Stewardship is an intersection between our spirituality and our ethics. It is not just about the present, but about investing in our future. It is about taking care of something we value and helping it grow. We must define what is important to us, evaluate our current behavior toward money and make a place in our hearts for contributing our time, our talents and our money to the things that we value.

Pledging signals, a shared commitment to the work of the congregation. It should be a joyous process. It contributes to our spiritual growth. We will know that we are successful when we experience giving as "making a difference" in what is most meaningful to us.

In the past year we have supported many charitable organizations in Hot Springs, including the Hot Springs Habitat for Humanity, Ouachita Children's Center, The Food Bank, Jackson House, and the Aids Resource Center, and many other activities.

Our goal is to achieve a budget of \$27,000. Thank you for your contributions and continue giving!

The activities at the SWUUW conference included music, workshops on healing, spirituality, social service, and mingling with other UU women.

Some of the highlights included music by Christine DeMeo and Cassie Lee Ford, the Red Tent Room, raffles, and workshops. The workshop topics included Immigration Today, Yoga and Breathing for Relaxation, Community Drumming, Dance, Color and Leadership.

Over 100 women attended the Conference. The Hot Springs Unitarian Universalist Women all agree that they had a wonderful time. The conference ended with our own Cassie Wylie giving the talk at Sunday Service. Several women from the conference attended our Sunday Service. It was an exciting and spiritual time for all.

#### SWUUW 's CONFERENCE



The Southwest Unitarian
Universalist Women's
Conference "Peace and Healing
in the Valley of the Vapors"
went off with a bang! UU

women from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas met at the Hotel Hot Springs and Spa during February 22-24<sup>th</sup>. A learning and wonderful time was had by all. Our own Linda Puckett was the conference Convener. She had been working feverishly for the last few months in making sure that the conference operated smoothly and successfully. She achieved her goal and then some. The Hot Springs Unitarian Women assisted Linda with the preparations and volunteered at the different activities involved in operating the conference.



Hazel Nino, Carol Stanfill, Casey Wylie and Dee Marion. *Casey stated that the most enjoyable part of the conference was meeting so many amazing and inspirational women!* 



Carol Stanfill and Linda Puckett



Registration and Workshop Information.
Pictured here is Casey Wylie and Jessica Dicus.



Music by Christine DeMeo and Cassie Lee Ford



Conference Convener: Linda Puckett



Workshop on "Immigration Today".



The "Red Tent Room" hosted by Sunnye Davis



Red Tent Room



Linda Puckett with escorts.

