



Good Gnus

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Jonesboro, AR
P.O. Box 1414, Jonesboro, AR 72403

Arlene Dormio, President
adormio@suddenlink.net

www.jonesborouu.org
facebook.com/jonesborouu

Betty Stafford, editor
nestafford@sbcglobal.net

January 2016

"We know too much and feel too little. At least we feel too little of those creative emotions from which a good life springs."
— Bertrand Russell

Worship Service Calendar

The Fellowship meets at Temple Israel, 203 W. Oak Ave., Jonesboro. Services and Children's Program 10 a.m. Coffee 10:45 a.m. Adult Forum 11 a.m.

We gather in worship to find meaning and to live more deeply. Worship creates connections within, among, and beyond us, calling us to our better selves, calling us to live with wisdom and compassion—UUA.

January 3 Annual New Year Brunch, 10 a.m.

We'll celebrate our in-coming year with food and fellowship, sharing resolutions for a bright 2016.

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!

Please remember the **Children's Shelter** with your donation of personal hygiene products.

January 10 Dr. Jerry Ball, ASU Professor of English, will present "Biblical Texts: Their Formation & Reliability, especially the New Testament."

The second Sunday is also **Peanut Butter Sunday**. Please remember your neighbors peanut butter or other nutritious items for the Food Pantry.

January 17 Service to Be Announced

- A short **Congregational Meeting** will follow the service, in which members will select those to participate on Standing Committees—Nominations, By-Laws, and Budget. Committee Reports will be part of

the business of the Annual Congregational Meeting in May.

- **Guest At Your Table offerings** are due today.
- **Pot Luck** will be shared after the Congregational Meeting. Bring an easy-to-make winter treat to enjoy.

January 24 Cori Dyson will discuss the symbiotic relationships between humans and other organisms, a reflection of our 7th principle. During discussion time, Cori will demonstrate the preparation of Kombucha tea, and SCOBYs (a Symbiotic Culture of Bacteria and Yeast) will be available to take home. Samples of Kombucha tea will be available along with our usual coffee and snacks.

January 31 Brandon Rout asks the question, "What Would You Do With an Extra Day?" Leap year/day is a rare occurrence, and our lives can change quite a bit between them.



Guest At Your Table

The UU Service Committee's **Guest At Your Table** has been underway for six weeks, and our Guests (the boxes you brought home in November) should be getting pretty well fed. While the box collects your loose change and bills, it is also a physical reminder of the work UUSC is doing to defend human rights around the world. If you have invited a Guest in recent weeks through the *Stories of Hope* booklet, you have learned about real people engaged in struggles for justice in the U.S. and around the world, people who have taught us about our own power to change the



world and inspired us to share our blessings to support the Service Committee and the many amazing people with whom they partner.

The Guest at Your Table program will close on **Sunday, January 17th**. You may convert your cash/coin donation to a check made out to "UUSC Guest at Your Table" and **complete the form on the box**. Or you can leave the coins as is, and Betty Stafford will count them and credit you. If you miss bringing back your GAYT donation on the 17th, please see Betty at your earliest opportunity.

What does your contribution support? **\$20** brings advocacy tools for the Restaurant Opportunities Center's struggle against the National Restaurant Association. **\$40** will help a day of training on group dynamics and negotiation skills for the Kenya National Alliance of Street Vendors and In-formal Traders. **\$75** enables one youth at risk for labor exploitation and trafficking near the Uganda-Kenya border to participate in training for healthy and profitable employment. Your donation of **\$125** or more qualifies for a matching gift from the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, in Manhasset, N.Y. Please be generous with your contribution to the annual GAYT appeal.

Community Outreach

Aside from the support this Fellowship provides to the Service Committee, we support and seek to transform the community outside our church walls—

- **The Children's Shelter in Walnut Ridge.** On the first Sunday of the month, we collect personal hygiene products for use at the Shelter.
- **Helping Neighbors Food Pantry.** We contribute foods on the second Sunday, volunteer during Pantry hours, and make a monetary donation annually. In December the Fellowship contributed **48** pounds of holiday fixins, peanut butter, and other foods. Aside from vital food contributions, we may also contribute through "Feed the Need" coupons at area grocers.
- **Habitat for Humanity in Jonesboro.** Several members... volunteer for the local Habitat affiliate, and the Fellowship makes an annual monetary contribution. A side note on HFH International—Even the iconic Rockefeller Center Christmas tree has to come down after the holidays. For the ninth year, the tree, visited by an estimated 500,000 people, will be milled into lumber for Habitat projects. *(Jonesboro Sun, 12/26/15)*



Other ways open themselves for Fellowship members and friends to reach out to the community. One will be coming up this month with the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., parade. For several years, UUs have proudly carried our banner there. You can be part of our outreach activities, by participating on the Social Justice and Outreach Committee, or by

helping with one of the activities as they arise. See Beth Robison for ways in which you can reach out.

Encouraging Spiritual Growth

I thought I heard the voice of the spirit cry—"Come find me. You won't have to look hard. Come where the ocean touches the shore; find me in the bright-light promises of moving on the waves, look carefully at the bubbles breaking on wet sand—there I am."

Each day I am reminded of my unworthiness—a dozen thoughts misspoken; another day when the good I do falls so far short of the good that I could do; myriad small interchanges, moments of sharing that strain to the breaking point my desire to be generous, helpful, and kind; months of careful work lost by a moment's impatience, a careless word.

But when I am here at the edge of creation, breaking with the small tide over the sand, the need to do good rolls away; the question of what is right diminishes to insignificance and is easily borne away by the tiny waves. Here, where no words are spoken, none are misspoken. I am with the broken stubble of the marsh grass that holds on through the wrecking wind and the burning flood. I am with the grains that mold themselves around everything, accepting even so unworthy a foot as mine, holding and shaping it until it feels that it belongs. I stand somewhere between truth and vision, and what I don't know ceases to embarrass me, because what I do know is that the water feels gentle like a lover's touch, and the sand welcomes it.

What I have done or failed to do has left no noticeable mark on creation. What I do or don't do is of no moment now. Now I am here and grateful to be touched, calmed, and healed by the immense pattern of the universe. And when I die, it will be an honor for my blood to return to the sea and my bones to become the sand. Reassured, I am called back to my life, to another day.

—From Rev. Elizabeth Tarbox, *Life Tides*, Skinner House Books, 1993.



In the Region



The **Southwest Spring Conference** will be held April 8-10, 2016, at Wildflower Church, Austin, TX, with the theme **"Differences that Make a Difference: Multi-Cultural Justice-Making Inside and Out."** UU's, with a theology of and commitment to pluralism, are called to lead the way in navigating a respectful discourse around emotional topics, such as diversity in culture, ethnicity, and theology, in a world that is increasingly divided. The Spring Conference, with theme speaker **Kathy McGowan**, Congregational Life Field Staff for the UUA Southern Region, will explore the differences in our congregations and how they make a difference in the way we chose to be in the world.

Our Interdependent Web

Climate change is threatening tribal families, who have worked the fishing grounds along the Quinault River on the coast of Washington state for generations. International leaders gathered in Paris in December to address global warming and "climate refugees." Some island nations are already moving their people to higher ground, even purchasing land elsewhere. And now sea-level rise is forcing the **Quinault Indian Nation** to consider abandoning lands it has inhabited for thousands of years.

Their small village of Taholah lies at the mouth of the Quinault and now relies on a 2,000-foot-long sea wall to protect it from the encroaching Pacific Ocean. Small, ramshackle homes back up to the modest wall of rock and gravel. Last March, the Tribal Council President, Fawn Sharp, was called in the middle of the night by an elder who lives in one of those homes. The ocean breached into his backyard and took out his smokehouse. The Army Corps of Engineers repaired the sea wall, but it's a temporary fix. A more permanent solution is on the table — but it won't be cheap or easy.

The average American will move 11 times in his or her lifetime, but Native American tribes are place-based. It's hard to explain what relocating would mean for these people. This place is where this tribal group has lived for thousands of years. The Quinault tribe has developed a \$60 million plan for the entire village—move it uphill—relocating the school, the courthouse, the police station, and the homes of 700 tribal members a safer distance from the encroaching Pacific. They don't want to leave, but if the ocean keeps rising, they're going to have to, and they will pay a heavy price tag.

The threat of climate change for the Quinault doesn't end with sea-level rise. Five years ago, the **Anderson Glacier**, which contributes cool water to the Quinault River at critical times of the year, disappeared for good. The absence of the glacier is already being felt. Very little snow fell on the Olympic Mountains this past winter, leading to minimal snowmelt feeding into the Olympic Peninsula's rivers, including the Quinault. Normally, glacial melt supplements river flows late in the summer and early fall. But without the glacier, the Quinault River was lower than ever recorded. So low that while walking through a newly exposed stretch of riverbed, one tribal member stubbed his toe on what turned out to be a mastodon jaw that may have been submerged since the last ice age.

For the salmon that migrate home to glacially fed Northwest rivers like the Quinault, things were difficult this year. Half of Taholah's residents are directly dependent on salmon fishing. Lines of gill nets stretch across different spots along the banks, each one representing a tribal family that has been catching returning salmon there for generations. The warm ocean waters and dry summer have created a confusing and hostile environment for salmon, which rely on cool river flows to find their way home to spawning grounds above Lake Quinault. Normally, at this time of year, the Quinault seafood plant processes 70,000 pounds of salmon per day. But tribal fishers are catching half that this season. The tribe has decided to limit fishing days to help more salmon live long enough to spawn.



The Quinault Indian Nation put together a climate adaptation and mitigation strategy for the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, and tribal representatives are heartened by the increasing presence of representatives from island nations and other developing countries at international climate gatherings in recent years. Indigenous peoples around the world are often on the front lines of climate change despite the fact that they contribute the smallest amount of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. The international community should take note of that disparity, Fawn Sharp says. And if a people "don't have the capacity or financial wherewithal to contend with the issue, ... other parts of the world ... must provide that aid and assistance."

—Ashley Ahearn, KUOW/Earth Fix, 12/2/15

Doonesbury

