

*Many Beliefs . . . One Community . . . A Better World*

## Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge


**Classes & nursery for our children provided at the 9:30 & 11:15 AM Services**

**Classes for youth provided at the 11:15 AM Service**

*SUNDAY WORSHIP, March 21, 9:30 & 11:15 AM*

*Tea and Peace-Making*

When Greg Mortenson met with the Taliban, he was uncertain if he could gain their respect. Through the building of schools, through books, through tea, and his own style of diplomacy, he has earned the respect of many Afghan communities. How has he become a change agent in the world? We'll prepare tea for those who would honor this day of peacemaking. The choir offers a Malcolm Dagleish anthem, "The Peace of the Wild Things," with text by Wendell Berry.



*7 PM Peace Vigil & Memorial* to honor the fallen in Afghanistan and Iraq. We gather outdoors (or indoors in case of inclement weather) for a service recognizing nearly nine years of war on Afghanistan and Iraq. With guest speakers, music, prayers, a light display and the walking of the labyrinth.

- **The Outreach Council Strategic Planning Meeting** will be held following the second service. Please come with your ideas and visions for making our congregation's mission and presence known to the larger community through the various areas of Outreach that connect us to the larger community as we plan for the future. The meeting will be held in the church office and will begin promptly at 12:30. A light lunch will be served.
- **Lunch bunch** meets after second service at *Picadilly*, 3164 Government Street. Everyone is welcome to gather and continue fellowship.
- **Mandala Dance**, 5 pm. Afterwards the group is taking an extended hiatus.
- **The Bible Study- Unitarian Views group** (formerly called "Fourth Source") meets at 5 pm to discuss Chapter 7 of "reading the Bible Again for the First Time" by Marcus Borg. The subject is Old Testament Wisdom Literature (Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Psalms, and Song of Songs). Facilitator: **Emily Toth**. *Child care provided*. Everyone is welcome.

## THIS WEEKEND

- Saturday, March 20, our church will host the **Inaugural Greater Baton Rouge Autism Awareness Walk and Fun Day**. Registration begins at 8am, walk begins at 9am and Family Fun Activities at 10am. A portion of the proceeds will go to Autism Society Greater Baton Rouge Chapter. For more information and registration: <http://www.fistgiving.com//fhfgbr>.
- **Deepening in the Dharma Retreat** ~ Saturday, March 20 from 10AM to 5PM and Sunday, March 21 from 1-5 pm. Sponsored by the Mandala Dance Circle, international dharma teacher Prema Dasara will offer some of the background and basis of dharma practice, including teachings on the seven-branch prayer, refuge, other components of the sadhana practice, and more about what deity yoga is all about. This retreat is intended for those who are already familiar with the dance practice but want to go deeper. We welcome those who are new to the practice, but would ask newcomers to consider attending our weekly retreat. We will conclude our weekend with our regular Mandala Dance session on Sunday evening from 5-6 pm. Please sign up at the adult programs table. We ask a donation of \$35 per day or \$50 for both days of dharma teaching, though no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Childcare will be available through the entire retreat. See Prema's website at [www.taradhatu.org](http://www.taradhatu.org). Questions? Contact Jessica at [Zebrinelady@cox.net](mailto:Zebrinelady@cox.net).

## UPCOMING SERVICES

- Sunday, March 28: ***What is Paradise?*** What is paradise for Unitarian Universalists? The morning features an assessment of a great ideal --saving this precious world. How are we to repair damaged and broken relationships on this fragile, endangered planet? What is a *Palm Sunday hope* for Unitarian Universalists? Many musical offerings this morning: an anthem by Palestrina, and a song by Peter Mayer performed by our minister and guitarist Eric Liffmann. At the close of each service we distribute FREE saplings (live oak, bald cypress, red maple and red oak) provided by the Arbor Day Foundation.
- Tuesday, March 30, 6 pm ***UU Passover Seder***, an intergenerational event, including dinner together. This special bring-a-dish dinner is to commemorate the escape of the Hebrew people from slavery in Egypt. We celebrate to express thanks for our own freedom and to remember those who are not yet free from addiction, political and economic slavery. We attempt to follow Passover dietary guidelines which exclude leavened breads, milk with meat dishes, pork, shellfish or fish without scales. Signup at the Adult Programs book table or by calling the church office. Questions? Dottie Kelly [uucbr\\_dottie@cox.net](mailto:uucbr_dottie@cox.net)
- Sunday, April 4: ***Easter Morning Services with Flower Communion***, 9:30 am & 11:15 am services. Bring a flower with you for our collective flower communion, a great tradition for UUs throughout the world. Everyone is asked to bring food cans for the children's food can hunt after each service. Bring a friend. Easter at our church is a festive, celebratory event. It is a happy day, made more joyful and meaningful with your family and friends. Strings, vocal soloists, and choir offer Haydn's "The Heaven's are Telling" for our festive morning.
- Sunday, April 11 ***Do Not Interfere: Lessons from Star Trek*** The Starfleet must honor as Prime Directive not to interfere with

other cultures and their evolutionary process. Hands off. The auctioned sermon arrives the week before our Saturday Auction Gala --the annual church fundraiser of fellowship, food, exquisite items, and a sermon topic to be auctioned off to the top bidder. Last April, **Foye Lowe**, received the privilege of selecting this Sunday morning's topic, a sermon our ministers delivers with lessons concerning our relationships with others on this planet.

- Sunday, April 18 ***Saving Face*** What is face? More than skin? Honor? Self-worth? Social status or position? Something that can be lost? Something that can be retrieved? Is face indefinable? With story and our own experience, we reflect with our minister on another great meaning of community --*saving face*.

## **MEETINGS**

- **Auction Committee** ~ Tuesday, March 23 at 5:45 pm in R9.
  - **Connections Council** ~ Tuesday, March 23, 6:30 pm.
    - **Church Board** ~ Sunday, April 11 @ 2 pm.
    - **Ministry Staff** ~ Tuesday, April 13 at 3 pm.
    - **Council Leaders** ~ Tuesday, April 13 at 6 pm.
  - **Branch Leaders Meeting** ~ Thursday, April 22, 6 pm.

## **CLASSES**

- ***Roots*** is an introduction to liberal religion, Unitarian Universalism, and this church. Rev. Steve Crump teaches this class. The next class will be Saturdays May 1, 8 and 15 10am-12pm. *Child care provided*. Sign up at the Adult Programs book table.
- ***Branches*** membership is open to everyone who has taken ***Roots*** or is a church member. ***Branches*** groups have about ten members and meet monthly to minister to each other through listening, accepting and sharing. We currently have 23 groups meeting at a variety of times. Three meet at the church with childcare. You may sign up for ***Branches*** at the book table or email **Diana Dorroh**, Coordinator, [diana\\_dorroh@hotmail.com](mailto:diana_dorroh@hotmail.com).

## **CONTINUING ACTIVITIES**

### ***Everyone is Welcome to Attend***

- **Woman's Book Club** meets Monday, April 12 at 7 pm to discuss *Life and Death in Shanghai* by Nein Cheng.

- **Men's Book Club** meets Sunday, April 11 at 7 pm in the office to discuss *The Increment* by David Ignatius.
- **Earth Centered Spiritualities Group** meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at 7 pm. The topic on April 8 will be an exploration of the synergy between religious naturalism and more traditional earth centered spiritualities. Meet Gods, Goddesses and Scientists on neutral ground.
- **Freethinkers** meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month at 7 pm. The next meeting will be April 19. Topic: What's Your Lifestance? We say we hate labels but we all use them. Confirm your self-assessment with help from author Jennifer Michael Hecht. Moderator: Hugh Finklea.
- **Tai Chi** meets Monday evenings 6 pm.
- **Adult Choir** meets Wednesday evenings, 6:30 pm. Call **Ila** at 926-2293.
- **Meditation Group** meets Thursdays, 7 pm. Search ucbrrmeditationgrp.
- **Peace Stone Drummers** meet the third Thursday of the month at 6 pm.
- **Wednesdays of Wonder** ~ Wednesday evenings, 6:30 - 8:30 pm. A multi-age, hands-on program for kids of all ages. We continue the Spirit Play lesson from the previous Sunday with a special activity. This program includes stories from all six UU sources and is a DROP-OFF option for parents.
- **Gentle Yoga for Everyone** ~ now meets every Tuesday from 10am-11am and Wednesday afternoons from 5:15 to 6:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall. This class is designed to ease into the practice of Yoga. Wear loose, comfortable clothing and bring your Yoga mat. Contact **Carol Harrison** at 541-915-1188.
- **The Bible Study-Unitarian Views Group** meets every third Sunday at 5 pm in the office. The facilitator for the April 18 meeting will be Harold Weingarten. The reading will be Chapter 8 of "Reading the Bible for the First Time" by Marcus Borg. The chapter is about the New Testament gospels. All are welcome. *Child care is provided.*
- **New Daytime Singing** ~ Tuesday mornings at 11 am in the Choir Room. We sing old hymns, gospel music, UU hymns, and anything else of interest or request. Tuesday "No-Fault Singing" is open to anyone who wants to sing.

## *SPECIAL EVENTS*



**Auction Gala!**  
**Saturday, April 17, 2010**

Mark your calendar and don't  
miss the fun!!

Too Good  
Too Big  
Too Much Fun  
To Miss!

**UCBRAuction.com**

### *SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL*

- **Sapling Tree Giveaway** ~ A LA Maison, a nonprofit hurricane recovery organization, headed by the Rev. Marilee Baccich, dedicated to rebuilding communities and re-greening Louisiana, in collaboration with UCBR, will offer free live oak, red oak, red maple and bald cypress tree seedlings at 10:30am and from 12:30pm-3pm, Sunday March 28. The Arbor Day Foundation and LSU AgCenter booklets on how to plant and grow these trees will be offered for free as well. In addition if you need assistance with planting your tree please call Herb Dyer @ 225-766-2098.
- **GSPC Film & Popcorn** - Sunday March 28, 2010, 6:00 pm at the UCBR in room 7. **Please note the change in format - bring a snack to share, drinks will be provided.** Featured film - "**Renewal**" (2008, 90 min.), a documentary. Synopsis - "Across the nation, people of faith are standing up for the environment. Evangelical Christians are fighting mountaintop removal, a coal mining process that is decimating Appalachia. Muslims are supporting sustainable farming. Jews are helping children experience the bond between nature and spirituality. Interfaith Power and Light is mobilizing people of all faiths in a religious response to

global warming. Veteran film producers Marty Ostrow and Terry Kay Rockefeller have crisscrossed the country to capture eight exciting stories of people whose passion and deep moral commitment are making a difference in a time of grave ecological threats." More information on the film can be found at the official website at: <http://www.renewalproject.net/>

- A Forum: "**Gay Rights -- Is It A Church-State Issue?**" Sunday, May 2, 1:30pm in the Sanctuary. Organized by for Americans United for Church and State. Sponsored by the Social Justice and Adult G&L Councils.
- **Lobby Training:** You're invited to Rouge Progressive Network's "Spring Into Action: Lobbying for Progressive Change" workshop this Saturday, March 20th from 3:00pm to 4:30pm at the River Center Library downtown. Participants in this workshop will get tips on how to lobby the Louisiana Legislature, learn about progressive legislation in the upcoming legislative session, and connect with progressive people and organizations. Speakers will include lobbyist Darryl Hunt and Louisiana State Representative Michael Jackson.

### [OUTREACH COUNCIL](#)

- Photos taken in front of our Standing On the Side of Love banner are now a part of the the SOSL slideshow being shown in the Northeast, and on the internet. You can view our photos and those of other UU congregations around the country by visiting [http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/photos/?bwbps\\_page\\_1=9](http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/photos/?bwbps_page_1=9). Our commitment continues, so be sure to sign the UUA Standing on the Side of Love petition at the book table to testify that you stand on the side of love in support of full equality for people of all gender identities and sexual orientation and all victims of any kind of oppression.

### [INTERFAITH ACTIVITIES IN THE COMMUNITY](#)

- March 12-21, 2010 ~ **Operation Red Stick Work Week Blitz** "Help Your Neighbor". The Interfaith Federation's Operation Red Stick matches skilled and unskilled volunteers with homeowners who have special needs as identified by professional case managers. Priority projects include those who are still recovering from Hurricane Gustav, the elderly, and those with special needs. Questions? Mike Hebert [Michael\\_hebert@bellsouth.net](mailto:Michael_hebert@bellsouth.net).
- There will be a Shape-Note (Sacred Harp) Singing at St. Alban's Chapel (Highland and Dalrymple) Sunday March 21, 2-4:30 pm. We will sing from the Blue Cooper Book. Copies will be available. New Singers Welcome. Questions, contact Rev. Charlene Heaton, Baker Presbyterian Church, 803-9194. Baker, La 70714

## MISCELLANEOUS

- **Hogwarts** online registration is now available. Please register as soon as possible by visiting <http://unitarianchurchbr.com/home/?linkld=41>. Registration is open to the public. Adult volunteers and potential paid staff please fill out the adult form. Youth- if you are entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade or above, have attended camp before, and want to be an ELF, please fill out both a camper registration and the Adult/ELF form. You do not have to pay any camp fees until after we have decided whether or not you will be an ELF. Questions? Email Jessica Gray [zebrinelady@yahoo.com](mailto:zebrinelady@yahoo.com)
- **Remember** in connection with this week's worship service, we have copies on the book table of the following books by Greg Mortenson: *3 Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time*, paperback, \$17 and *Stones into Schools: Promoting Peace with Books, Not Bombs in Afghanistan and Pakistan*, hardcopy, \$28.
- **You Can Heal Your Life: The Movie** ~ Wednesday, May 5 at 6:30 pm, the Adult Growth and Learning Council will sponsor this entertaining and inspirational film about Louise Hay's personal story showing how her views on self-esteem, abundance, and emotional causes behind physical ailments were developed. Childcare available. Louise is a renowned lecturer and teacher and the author of numerous books, such as *You Can Heal Your Life*, *The Power is Within You*, *You Can Do It*. Discussion after the movie will be facilitated by **Carolee Laffoon**, Certified Heal Your Life<sup>®</sup> Coach and Workshop Leader. In connection with this topic, there will be a three-hour workshop, **Love Yourself to Energize Healing**, on Sunday, May 23, 3-6 pm. *Childcare available if requested*. Sign up for both at the Adult Programs book table.
- **Visit the Tam Bao Buddhist Temple** as a group on Friday evening, May 7, 2010 sponsored by the Outreach Council. The Temple is located at 975 Monterrey Avenue, near Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge. Meet in the parking lot of the Temple at 7 PM so that we can go in as a group before the service begins. Our RE Middle Youth will be attending with their teachers or chaperones. Please sign up at the Adult Programs book table so that we can give Tam Bao an approximate number of attendees. We visited this Temple two times in 2009 and were graciously received with everyone reporting an enjoyable experience. The Tam Bao web site is [www.batonrougebuddha.com](http://www.batonrougebuddha.com) for more information. Questions? **Dottie Kelly**, [uucbr\\_dottie@cox.net](mailto:uucbr_dottie@cox.net).
- **Young Adult Retreat May 14<sup>th</sup> – May 16<sup>th</sup>** ~ GenUU, the young adult group here at the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge will be hosting a retreat at Tickfaw State Park from Friday evening May 14<sup>th</sup> through Sunday morning May 16<sup>th</sup>. We will be using the curriculum "What Moves Us" from the Unitarian Universalist Association websites. The workshops in this program explore the life experiences of both historic and contemporary Unitarian Universalist theologians, highlighting that which caused in them a change of heart, a new direction, new hope, and a deeper understanding of their own liberal faith. These workshops also offer participants a chance to engage with and bring their personal experiences to bear on the very questions explored by each theologian in turn. If this program sounds interesting to you and you're an 18-35ish year-old friend or member of UCBR please sign up at the book table or online at our Google Group (search for 'GenUU'). We only have 16 spots available and our retreats

are easily our most popular activity. You may pay the \$25 charge for the whole weekend by sending a check including a memo referencing the GenUU Spring 2010 Retreat to the church or put your \$ (check or cash) in the book table cash box on Sunday. If you pay cash, put it in a clearly marked envelope with your name stating it's for the GenUU Spring 2010 Retreat. Please let us know if you'd like to pay via work scholarship.

## *SEE YOU AT CHURCH ON SUNDAY*

### ***MISSION STATEMENT***

*Grounded in love and respect for nature and humanity  
and dedicated to the individual's search for truth,  
we provide a home where we can celebrate spiritual diversity  
and commit ourselves to serving the human community.*

**Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge**

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**Baton Rouge, LA 70806**

**225-926-2291**

**[church@peacestones.org](mailto:church@peacestones.org)**

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