

Red River Ramblings

Volume 7, Issue 10

October, 2010

Red River Unitarian Universalist Church
...a home for religious liberals in Southern Oklahoma and North Texas.

A Month of Sundays

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October 3

The newly ordained Rev. Pamela Wat "Myths and Truths of Our Faith"

Today the Unitarian Universalist Association is celebrating "Association Sunday" and kicking off the year-long celebration of the consolidation of the Unitarians and the Universalists in 1961. Let us pause to lift up the sometimes serious, sometimes hilarious myths and stories of our Unitarian and Universalist faith and wonder about the truths they speak to us today.

October 10

Steve Brooks, Singer, Songwriter, Storyteller "Born-Again Pagan"

Pagans have gotten a bum rap. The worship of nature is our oldest spiritual impulse, and these days, it might be just what we need to save our planet. Austin folksinger and UU Steve Brooks talks and sings about the Wiccan and Native American

paths, and how he found out he was a Born-Again Pagan. Learn about the real old-time religion, and help God get in touch with his feminine side.

October 17

Rev. Barbara Morgan "Journey & Transformation: Purgatory"

The Rev. Barbara Morgan returns this month with part-two of her three-sermon series based on *The Divine Comedy* by Dante Alighieri. If you missed her September sermon (Hell), you missed a delightful, literary take on the concept of touring the lower depths. Don't be confused. Barbara's tour through Dante's *Inferno* is not about death and an afterlife. It is about living, learning, and changing. Barbara will complete her series in November, as she guides us through "Heaven".

October 24

Rev. Dr. Don Fielding "Witnessing"

Here's what Don says about his sermon: "Have you ever been asked 'Do you know Jesus?' or 'Have you been saved?' or 'May I witness to you?'? Most all of us have at one time or another, and it feels pretty uncomfortable. Recently, after being witnessed to, without arguing back, I decided that Christians weren't the only one's with "Good News," and that I can witness our "Good News," too. This sermon is a first attempt at witnessing back to someone who might be witnessing to me."

October 31

John Harwood [5th Sunday Forum]

Watch the weekly E-News for more information.



Adult Forum
Worship & Children's RE

10:00am
11:15am

Calendar of Events

October, 2010

- 1- Fri at 7 pm; UJJAM, a Music Interest Circle
 3 – Sun at 10 am; Adult Forum
 3 – Sun at 11:15 am; Worship & Sunday School: Rev. Pamela Wat, *preaching*
 3 – Sun at 12:15 pm; **“Eat, Pray, Swap”** The Great RRUU Church Clothing Swap PLUS Pizza for 5 bucks! (Kids under 6 free). Served as part of the Clothing Swap!
 7 – Thurs at 5:00 pm; Reports from committees/interest groups/chalice circles/ team leaders are due to president@rruu.org
 9 - Sat at 10:00 am; PFFFT, an Outdoor Activity Interest Circle
 9 – Sat at 10:00 am; Worship Arts Team meets
 9 - Sat at 6:00 pm; MOVEABLE FEAST, a Cooking & Dining Chalice Circle
 10 - Sun at 10:00 am; Adult Forum
 10 - Sun at 11:15 am; Worship & Sunday School: Steve Brooks, *leading*
 10 - Sun at 12:45 pm; FREETHINKERS, a Humanist Circle
 12 – Tues at 6:30 pm; Board of Trustees
 17 - Sun at 10:00 am; Adult Forum
 17 - Sun at 11:15 am; Worship & Sunday School: Rev. Barbara Morgan, *preaching*
 17 - Sun at 12:15; Fellowship Gathering
 19 - Tues at 7:30 pm; GREEN TEAM, an Environmental Interest Circle
 22 - Fri at 7:30 pm; RED RIVER EARTH SPIRIT, a Nature-Based Chalice Circle, Samhain Celebration at the church
 22 - Fri at 7:30, a group from RRUU will attend "Greater Tuna" starring Darrah Dunn at SCP. If you have not booked a ticket through Jan Fletcher, contact the SCP Box Office.
 24 - Sun at 10:00 am; Adult Forum
 24 - Sun at 11:15 am; Worship & Sunday School: Rev. Dr. Don Fielding, *preaching*, Open Dialogue morning
 24 - Sun at 12:45 pm; Fall Congregational Meeting [vote on by-law changes]
 31 - Sun at 10:00 am; Adult Forum
 31 - Sun at 11:15 am; Fifth Sunday Forum: John Harwood, *speaking*
 31 - Sun at 12:15; Fellowship Gathering

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 All October newsletter submissions are due to
newsletter@rruu.org
 by September 25th, at 5:00 p.m.

October Birthdays

- 1 - Kathy Whisman
 5 - Marion Hill
 Allyson Caves
 10 - Carolyn Barrow
 15 - Alex Dunn
 24 - Darrah Dunn
 Robert Mease
 26 - Ken Fletcher
 Carla Murphy
 28 - Hisae Shaw
 Xie Tracz
 31 - Tamara Mease



Karla Morton, Poet Laureate



Texas Poet Laureate Karla Morton will visit Sherman on Saturday, October 2. At 2:00 pm, she will give a free reading at the Sherman Public Library Community Room. At 3:30 pm, she will be present for book sales and signings at the Bella Fontana Spa, one block south of the Grayson County Courthouse on Travis Street.

Karla Morton, named by Gov. Rick Perry and other Texas lawmakers as the 2010 Poet Laureate is known as the **‘Warrior Poet’ for her successful fight with cancer. She has spoken at numerous cancer centers, fundraising events, and support groups about her diagnosis and her rage to live.**

Both events are free and open to the public, courtesy the Texoma Poetry Society. Contact dondon213@hotmail.com for more information.



Green Team Tip of the Month

Give a hoot, don't pollute!

Member News

Kudos of the Month, and Thanks, go to....



...Elbert and Marion Hill for making delivery of "Fill the Plate" gifts to the *Loaves and Fishes* food pantry in Durant.

...our Worship Arts Team for a very creative, fresh and refreshing water communion service complete with a striking new container to hold our collected water for use during the year.

...Pam Wat, Don Fielding, Barbara Morgan and Steve Brooks for their service providing pulpit supply at RRUU. We are blessed with the variety and gifts of those who visit to minister among us.

...grateful thanks to Suzanne Durland and Committee for a spectacular, creative, fun and successful Service Auction. This fun raiser also netted funds for RRUU.

...Marla Loturco for the great photo composites from the service auction (posted in the entryway). If you enjoy pictures, think about being the RRUU historian for a time and learn how to set up the composites for all to enjoy!

...the generous RRUU Second Mile Givers who gave the church the first \$700 toward the purchase of our LCD player. With fund raiser dollars designated by the Board this item will be added to our audio-visual package currently on order.

...Doug Strong for sharing the idea to surprise Dianna for her ordination anniversary and for crafting the song to celebrate the event.

...absolutely everyone who participated in our end of summer Sharing Service. It is always a blessing when we give part of ourselves to each other. The next Sharing Service is scheduled for the Sunday, December 26, 2010.

...Clean Building Fairies who brought a new long broom and a good used vacuum cleaner to RRUU. Custodian Penny Armstrong is exceedingly grateful her work is now easier!

...RRUU member Charlotte Teeters for passing her cardiac tests in September. It is good news indeed her loving and generous heart does not need more stints!

...Don and Suzanne Durland for making the most trips to Dallas for medical care ever recorded at RRUU. There is blessing in spades with **Suzanne's regaining health!**

Love Can Be Sneaky!

What a blessing it is when sneaky love is poured generously and freely and splashes around in pure delight! That is exactly what happened Sunday, September 26, 2010 at Red River Unitarian Universalist!



From the beginning of Adult RE I noticed many people were wearing beautiful shades of purple but never imagined it had anything in the world to do with my love of the color! When the Worship Arts Team asked me to preach in September, I requested the 26th in order to celebrate the 20th anniversary of my ordination by being in the pulpit. It did not occur to me the sneaky loves of RRUU would grab this event in my life and turn it into a party!

Thank-you my family of the heart, thank you for surprising me with the awesome anniversary song at the close of worship, for the awesome array of purple apparel, for the delicious high coffee after worship and for the cool purple Mylar balloons! This has been a year of tremendous change and growth for me professionally and personally. Your affirmation means more to me than my words (or tears) can ever express.

The Skin Horse in *The Velveteen Rabbit* has taught us we become REAL when others love us. I have never felt more "real" than when you began singing and I realized that in love you were joining in the celebration of my ordination anniversary. With all that I am I humbly offer my deepest thanks (and I am awed that so many kept a secret so well!).
Dianna Niemann-Harris



Bags are On the Way!

Due to an error on the part of the manufacturer, our spiffy new grocery bags were inadvertently shipped to Tennessee instead of Texas. The bags are now on the way to us and will be available for purchase soon. Start saving quarters now to get your supply of bags in each of the five colors for a mere \$2.50 each!

Children's Religious Education



Helen Schulze continues to study our seven principles with our children in October. Many thanks to Amanda for her service to our children during Helen's absence in September. Offers of help and involvement are always welcome. If you are willing to help with the Children's RE program, please alert Helen or a Board member.

Adult Forum

No information was available at the time of this printing.





EMBROIDERED LOGO SHIRTS Fleece, Sweatshirts On Order

You read it right! We have 1/4 zip fleece and sweatshirts on the way with our RRUU logo and name embroidered beautifully in the upper left portion of the shirts. These high quality sweatshirts should be here just in time for cooler weather and are a bargain at \$25.00 each!

In addition to the anticipated sweatshirts, we have a good stock of polos (\$20 each) and tees (\$15 each) available in various colors and sizes. Browse the shirt rack at RRUU and pick the apparel which is right for you to wear and enjoy! This is a great way to show pride in the RRUU family and can be a conversation starter to tell others about our open, welcoming, haven of liberal religion here in North Texas!

Those who have already purchased tees or polos please check your records and insure you remembered to pay Dianna Niemann-Harris for the item. Each person who chooses to buy RRUU apparel is responsible personally for making sure the shirt is paid for. If you can't remember whether or not you covered the cost of your shirt, please just give Dianna the amount of the item now...worst case is you will be making a small donation to your church!

Don't Forget Used Movies and Bingo Prizes



Here's a way to give to others and move unneeded items out of your home! Area nursing homes are in need of movie DVD's for residents to enjoy. Any you have which you are finished with will be gratefully received. Just place your used-but-usable movies in the box marked Entertainment For The Elderly on the table in the back of the sanctuary. If you attach a note with your name and the value of the DVD our treasurer will include it as an "in kind" gift on your annual giving statement!

Also, knick-knacks, lotions or creams, wall decorations, men's hats, photo albums, stationary, gift books and small toys are all good items to donate for seniors in nursing homes to "buy" with Bingo Bucks to give as gifts. Bring your small items for nursing home shoppers to RRUU and place them in or by the basket marked Bingo Prizes. They will magically morph into delight for some resident who is able to give a gift because of you!

Important Note to Newsletter Contributors



Many thanks go to the faithful who consistently (or sporadically) contribute articles, information, reports, and images to this monthly newsletter. Without your contributions, there would be no news to tell. Please accept this friendly reminder with a spirit of cooperation: The more you **work to make your contribution "look" good, the more your editors have to work to reformat it over and over until it complies with our template and program.**

So, send in the news! Keep those contributions coming! But *please* let us do the formatting. Send plain text, no colors, no fancy fonts, no embedded pictures (send them separately), no tables or columns, no auto numbering or bullets. Think content, not appearance. THANK YOU!

NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY IS COMING IN NOVEMBER



A phone directory is only as good as the information it contains. Our new church directory will be published in early November and in order to assure it is as accurate as possible, look for an email (or phone call if you don't have email) that will list the current information we have in the church database. Please update any changes and return the email by October 15, 2010.

If you were not listed in the last directory, you will be getting a PDF form attached to an email which you can complete and return (by clicking on the SUBMIT FORM icon at the top of the page). The directory will not only list address and phone contacts, but also the activities and interests that each of us have, along with birthdays (sans year), cross index by ZIP code, along with useful UU links.

This is a project from the Communications Team, who will bless you eternally if you return your information before October 15, 2010.

How To Begin (*Changing Your Life*)

Begin by looking for new questions, not old answers. Answers close doors. Questions open them. Answers lock us in place. Questions lead us on adventures. Socrates boasted himself the most ignorant man in Athens. Each new insight raised a dozen questions, extending the compass of his ignorance. Yet beyond every ridge he climbed there lay a wider vista. The more questions we have, the farther we can see.

This is the 8th of 10 suggestions by Forrest Church. The other 9 can be viewed at UUJ.org, Spiritual Life

Board Bits

What your Board did at their last meeting, September 14, 2010



Board Members in attendance included Penny Armstrong, Don Durland, Amy Hoffman-Shehan, Dianna Niemann-Harris and Marla Loturco. Doug Strong was invited to present feedback from the Mission & Vision Task Force. The meeting began at 6:40 pm and finished at 9:00 pm. See full board minutes for details.

In addition to the standard agenda the board addressed and discussed:

- * Officially accepted the resignation of Paula Blackshear and Joyce Peak.
- * Officially recognized new members Laura Shehan 06/13/2010, Charlotte Teeter 08/04/2010, and Kat Walston 08/29/2010.
- * Fall Congregational Meeting – to take place on October 24 at 2:45 pm. -Finished planning the agenda. Made several additional minor changes to the by-laws for the vote at the Congregational Meeting. All members will receive a call by a board member to determine their attendance / proxy intentions for the Congregational Meeting, and if they will require child care.
- * Mission & Vision - Accepted report and plan of action from the task force of Penny Armstrong and Doug Strong. Doug will do a presentation for the Fall Congregational Meeting.
- * Income from Fundraisers - \$175 will be used from Polo Shirt Sales will be applied to purchase of overhead projector. Up to \$200 from Service Auction may be used to complete purchase of sound components as necessary.

If you would like to see the full board minutes – they will be posted in the “Board Book” in the back of the Sanctuary as soon as they are available. The next board meeting is October 12th, starting at 6:40 p.m. Board meetings are open to all, if you wish to be on the agenda please contact a board member. Deadline for the agenda and reports to the board is October 7th. Those wishing a few minutes during the “open mic” will want to be ready to speak around 7:00 pm.

Congregational Meeting October 24, 2010

Treasurer's Report



There is much good news to celebrate in our fiscal corner at RRUU! Marie Bellman has stepped forward with the offer of being assistant treasurer to "learn the ropes" this year with the hope of being elected as our next treasurer! Marie has bookkeeping experience and actually enjoys working with numbers! The nominating committee has gratefully accepted her offer with the support of the Board of Trustees. Marie and I will begin our work together in November allowing plenty of time for her to learn the "ins and outs" of church bookkeeping prior to our next election of officers.

For the month of August RRUU had an income of \$3,575.72 with expenses of 3,519.33. This leaves us in the black for the month at 56.39. As your treasurer I am working on quarterly statements to let each giving unit know how their recorded giving compares to their pledge. Additionally I have been hard at it tracking our fund raiser income and preparing for our October congregational meeting as well as reading over the RRUU Policy and Procedures draft to provide suggestions and recommendations concerning this ongoing, living document which informs how we do what we do at RRUU.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dianna Niemann-Harris, Treasurer

Service Auction Outcome



Our first-ever service auction was a huge success! People donated a total of 40 items, and all but 11 were sold. The items remaining are available to anyone who makes an offer. How, you ask? Click on the link on the home page of the church website, on the sidebar of the weekly e-news, or click here: <http://www.ruu.org/pdf/Unsolditemlist091132010.pdf> and go to the list instantly!

The evening was both entertaining and profitable. We listened to the soothing sounds of the dulcimer, played by Marla Loturco; songs from both Jan Fletcher and L.D. Clark; watched Doug Strong auction with grace and speed; ate tempting and delicious home-made desserts; imbibed in an assortment of beverages and we raised a total of \$1,570.25.

Kudos go to Suzanne Durland who spearheaded the evening along with several others who deserve praise and love for their help: to Helen Schulze and the children in Sunday School who made the bidding numbered paddles; Amy Hoffman-Shehan who managed the software program; Don Durland who kept track in case the computer crashed (it didn't), Charlotte and Leon Teeter, registrars; Dianna Niemann-Harris, Ruth Ann Snider, and Marion Hill, homemade desserts, and Kat Walston who pitched in and cleaned up afterwards.

The overall reaction from those who participated, helped and donated was unanimous – **let's do it again!** You can look for the return of the auction sometime in the fall of 2011.

Defining Our Mission And Vision

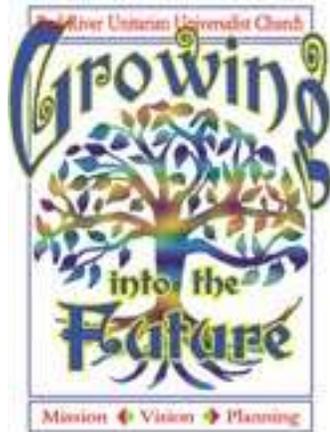
It has been nearly ten years since we, as a community, defined our Mission and adopted a Vision upon which we created a church that would make a difference in our lives and in the world. Our church, like any church, is a living institution which changes and adapts over time to the changes in the wider world. Most of us were not here in 2002, it is time to look at the values we hold and how we want our church to be.

The dynamics of any institution are enriched when it **examines its aspirations, its purpose, its connection to life.** Our Board of Trustees, with the support of a grant from North Texas Association of UU Societies, has sanctioned and is excited about our entering into a six month *Vision - Mission - Planning* process. The goal is to involve the entire congregation. By connecting and articulating together, we shall identify our core values, create mission and vision statements that we will vote to approve at a special congregational meeting in March 2011.

Those who study congregational dynamics report that when a faith community has clear, intentional, community-created aspirations the result is a healthy congregational life. A well defined mission linked to a clear vision gives a foundation for meaningful long range planning, allowing the various ministries of our church to flourish.

All members and friends will be contacted this month. Please accept your invitation to participate in both a small 30-45 minute gathering (of 4 people) some Sunday morning during October and November and then to join everyone at the Saturday, January 22, 2011 day-long workshop which will be facilitated by our consultant, Dr. Joe Sullivan, who is also working with the Oak Cliff and Tyler UU Fellowships. This is exciting stuff, friends! Imagine being part of a religious community that *wants* its members and friends to think about and create the core mission and vision of Red River Unitarian Universalist Church.

We are Growing Into the Future ~ starting now!



Voices of our Liberal Religion: Explaining UU Religion to Others

The Rev. John Alexie Crane

No doubt you have noticed, as I have, that if someone asks you, **“What does your church believe?”** it is an awkward question. **It’s hard for UUs to find a clear answer.** Why in the world is this? We have existed for 200 years here in the U.S., and for 400 years in Europe, for **heaven’s sake!** Why can’t we give a direct answer to that simple question? It remains awkward because, unlike almost every other church, we are not identified by our shared beliefs. We have an unusual structure.

Most churches are identified by a shared body of traditional beliefs. Our beliefs, on the other hand, are held not by the church, but by each of us individually. Our beliefs vary widely: Christian, Jewish, Humanist, theist, atheist, agnostic, mystic, etc. We are each of free to believe as our own minds and hearts dictate.

But why this insistence on individual freedom of belief? Because we have learned by experience that, in religion, the truth that matters above all, is not that which is expressed in a traditional holy book, nor in creeds or doctrines; rather, it is the truth that emerges in the minds and hearts of each living individual in community, as they share in a lifelong search for truth and meaning. Understanding is more important to us than believing.

This is why we find it awkward to answer the question **“What does your church believe?”** With us, it is not the church that believes, it is each individual member who believes; and the beliefs vary from one to another. **We don’t as a church cherish a body of final answers;** each of us individually, with the support and stimulation of a UU community, seeks always for growth in understanding and awareness.

So what can we say to others in reply to that simple question, **“what does your church believe?”** We can say our church is different from most others in that its people do not come together around a shared body of traditional belief. Rather they come together to share a search for growth in understanding, a search based as much on reason and contemporary knowledge, as on traditional insights from the ancient world. And we **don’t limit ourselves to one tradition alone, but draw on the accumulated wisdom in all traditions.**



"The first ever RRUU Church-wide clothing swap will be Sunday October 2nd! Just in time to solve all our needs! Have you lost weight? Gained weight? Tired of everything in your closet? Well, here's the solution:

Give us your tired, your poor,
Your wrinkled garments yearning to breathe free,
The wretched clothing of your closet depths.
Send these, the homeless, but usable & clean
duds to us.
We lift our arms at fellowship hall's door,
So we might recycle them among ourselves.
(with apologies to Emma Lazarus)

Sort through your closet and bring everything you will never wear again to church on Sunday October 3 (but not one day before!). Tables will be set up in Fellowship Hall and after the service, everyone is invited to browse among the bounty and take home anything you wish. No coins shall be exchanged in this temple event! Bring, donate, pick, take. Open to all members and friends of the congregation! This low impact recycle program is sponsored by the RRUU Green Team. All remaining clothing will be donated to the Grayson County Crisis Center Thrift Shop.

Do you have clothes that are too worn out to give away or repurpose? Fabric scraps, yarn scraps or rags that are accumulating? Please bring those as well for rag recycling; they will be donated to the Grayson County Crisis Center for sale to a rag recycler. Your worn out duds don't have to go into the landfill and provide much needed income for this organization.

Instructions:

1. Presort your clothing donations into the following categories: men, women casual, women dress, boys, girls, baby / toddler.
2. Bring your sorted clothing items for the swap to Fellowship Hall before the service.
3. Place the clothing on the marked tables. (This is self serve – Green Team members will not sort for you but will help guide you to the marked tables)
4. Return to Fellowship Hall after the service. Take what you want. You don't have to contribute clothing to take clothing!
5. Help bag or box all leftovers and rags after the swap, and help load into Marie's truck

Social Action Committee News



RRUU Social Action Team had its semi-annual meeting during the Adult Religious Education hour the last Sunday in September with an awesome 19 people participating! We began by sharing stories of people and events which first moved each of us toward a passion for justice and social activism. Some fascinating tales were shared of strangers, parents, friends and life events which inspired those gathered.

The group gathered considered stewardship of "Share the Plate" offerings for the coming six months and pondered which food pantries will receive our "Fill the Plate" food and sundries donations for the next three quarters. Watch for our written report in advance of the October congregational meeting for the specifics.

We discussed the UUA *Guest at Your Table* project which Suzanne Durland will organize and publicize. We will join in *Guest at Your Table* this fall, adding our gifts to those of other UU's. Conversation at the gathering also included our commitment at RRUU to do periodic trash clean up along both sides of Harrison Street. New member Kat Walston readily agreed to spearhead this project. Watch your E-news and Sunday announcement insert to learn what date we will don rubber gloves and help the environment right here in our neighborhood.

An outdoor worship service in April is planned as a Blessing of the Animals where all will be invited to bring their pet or a picture of a pet for a special blessing service. At this time we will also receive donations of pet food, dollars for no-kill shelters and hopefully have a guest from the Animal Rescue Foundation to help us better understand the needs of animals who so freely and unconditionally give love.

Finally, the group learned more about the Unitarian Universalist - United Nations Organization and our efforts at RRUU to become a "Blue Ribbon Congregation" in the UU-UNO. Our October "Share the Plate" offerings Sunday, October 10th are designated to UU-UNO. Many at RRUU are members of the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Organization and several among us are seeking to become envoys with this organization. Next time you are browsing the web, go to <http://www.uu-uno.org/> to read more and determine if you would like to be a member!

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Green Team Prepares for Earth Day

The RRUU Green Team / Earth Day Planning Committee needs to raise seed money to fund advertising for the 2011 Texoma Earth Day Festival. Last year's festival ran over budget and had little financial support from sponsoring organizations, and there are no funds left over to jump start the next festival.

We have selected energy saving and safety products from Athena Brand Products to sell to raise the money needed. Orders will be taken through October 31, 2010, and one large order will be placed in early November. Product will be received in plenty of time for holiday gifts. Orders must be prepaid by October 31. All profits will benefit the 2011 Texoma Earth Day Festival. Items on the list:

1. Burton Induction Stovetop for \$110.00. This is a single burner 1800 Watt, 120V induction burner. It heats quickly, uses less energy than a gas stove, and does not add heat to the kitchen. Induction cook-tops require the use of a pan with a magnetic layer (cast iron or stainless steel with a magnetic layer in the base). If a magnet sticks to the pan, it will work!

2. UltraLight / Radio for \$40.00. This is a combination flashlight, emergency beacon, AM/FM/Weather Band radio. It requires no external batteries and can be charged by winding a crank handle or plugging into household outlet or car charger.

3. Vers-A-Light with power adaptor for \$40.00. This is versatile, waterproof 19 LED lantern that can hang from a hook, tent, or tree branch and also includes a magnet for attaching to your car. It creates light or emergency beacon. It also requires no external batteries and can be charged by winding a crank handle or plugging into household outlet or car charger.

4. Emergency Tool for \$20.00. The Emergency Tool is a must for every car. It includes a seat belt cutter, window hammer, cell phone charger, flashlight and emergency beacon. It is charged by winding a crank handle. Magnets on the rim of the flashlight will secure the tool on top of a car while using the emergency beacon.

5. LED Road Flare in Red for \$38.00. This non-toxic reusable road flare has a life expectancy of 3000 hours. It has multiple light patterns and a magnet to attach to your car. It can be charged by winding a crank handle or plugging into household outlet or car charger.

6. 18 inch Collapsible Safety Cone with Red LED light for \$18.00. This safety cone collapses down to 2 inches and takes up very little space in the car. Placed in the road behind a vehicle, it provides added safety in event car trouble.

New Meditation Manual for UUs in the Military



The Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF), our UU church without walls, has about 3,500 members scattered all over the world. Bless All Who Serve, is pocket-sized, and has readings, prayers, and even hymns from many faith traditions. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) printed the books with the help of generous donors who paid to have copies printed for military people and their families, military chaplains and UU ministers. The CLF is managing the distribution of these free, individual copies of the book.

We want to alert people who are in the military, military family members, or UU ministers within our District. If there is someone who has been deployed, or living in another area, who would like a copy, the CLF will be happy to mail this book to them. It might make sense to mail one copy to the person who is deployed, and another copy to a family member at home. The rules around this are flexible. The idea is to get these wonderful books into the hands of those who need them.

For those who don't quite meet the criteria, Bless All Who Serve is available for \$8.00 at the UUA bookstore at <http://www.uuabookstore.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=1263>. Contact Lorraine Dennis, Executive Director, with the names and addresses of friends and their families in the military who would like a copy. ldennis@clfuu.org 617-948-6166

What is God?

Some people think that God is a feeling you carry deep in your heart,

Some people think God's all around us, the world of which we're a part.

Some people think that God is the flowers, the earth, the air, and the trees,

Some people think that God's what's unknown and to wonder is just a big tease.

Some people think that God is the stars twinkling so bright in the night.

Some people think that God is the knowledge of doing what's wrong and what's right.

Some people think that God's an old man living way up in the sky, Some people think that God is the answer whenever we ask ourselves "why?"

Some people think that God is a puzzle, the pieces never quite fit. Some people think that God's what you hear when you make yourself quietly sit.

We all have ideas about what is God,

Thoughts that we think on our own.

But here in this church, in this place together,

We never need question alone.

—Beth Graham

Reprinted from the UUA KIDS website.

RRUU Chalice Circles: Which Small Group Is Right For You?

Chalice Circles are small groups of people who meet regularly for the purpose of getting to know one another while learning, discussing, and acting on topics of common interest. All members and friends are welcome! If you are interested in attending a particular circle, contact Circle Coordinator, Jan Fletcher, at chalicecircles@rruu.org.



MI NDFULNESS, a Meditation Circle, meets monthly. Facilitator is Richard Newlin; contact him for meeting dates and times. **NEW AND EXPERIENCED MEDITATORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.**

FREETHI NKERS, a Humanist Circle, meets the second Sunday of each month in Fellowship Hall at 12:45. The next meeting will be Oct. 10. Facilitator is Jim Gauthier. **ALL FREETHINKERS ARE WELCOME!**



GREEN TEAM, an Environmental Action Circle, meets the Third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm at the home of Amy Hoffman-Shehan in Sherman. The next meeting will be October 19. Please contact Amy for more information.



MOVEABLE FEAST, a Cooking and/or Eating Circle, meets on moveable dates at moveable locations. The next Movable Feast is October 9th. Please contact Elbert and Marion Hill for more information.



PFFFT, an Outdoor Activities Interest Circle, meets each month on a Saturday. The next meeting is Oct. 9 at 10:00 a.m. Facilitator is Suzanne Durland. **ANYONE WHO LOVES THE OUTDOORS IS WELCOME!**



RED RIVER EARTH SPI RIT, a Nature-Based Spirituality Circle, meets seasonally at the Church. They will be celebrating Sandhaim on October 22, at 7:30 p.m. at RRUU. Facilitator is Penny Armstrong. **NEW MEMBERS AND GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**



UUJAM, a Music-Making Interest Group, meets the first Friday of each month at 7 pm at the home of Jan Fletcher in Sherman. The next meeting will be held Fri, Oct. 1. The JAM meets in an informal circle to share favorite songs and all musicians and listeners are welcome. Bring your instruments, songs and snack/drink to share. Facilitator is Jan Fletcher. **ALL MUSIC MAKERS AND LISTENERS ARE WELCOME!**



LAI D BACK BOOK GROUP, a Book Reading and Discussion Interest Group, meets periodically to discuss the selected reading and share insights. The group discusses the selection via email. Facilitator is Suzanne Durland. **ALL WHO ENJOY THOUGHTFUL LITERATURE ARE WELCOME!**



SPI RIT WI THI N, a New Thought Chalice Circle, will meet at Marla Loturco's home in Whitesboro the first & third Wed at 7 pm. The group continues to study *Spirit of Life: Exploring Spirituality for UU's*, a new UU Tapestry of Faith program.





Red River Unitarian Universalist Church
 ...a home for religious liberals in Southern Oklahoma and North Texas

102 West Harrison Street
 PO Box 1806
 Denison, Texas 75021

Phone: 903-465-5515
 E-mail: info@rruu.org

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

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Marla Loturco, Helen Schulze,

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