



# Red River Ramblings

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## Sunday Celebrations ~To Enrich our Lives

June 5

### HUMANITY AS A FAMILY

Dave Henderson

Of his service, Dave writes:

I am the newest member of the RRUU family. I have come to this place in my life after months of research, both via internet surfing and several personal conversations, which have led me to conclude that the basic principles of Unitarian Universalism are compatible, if not identical, with my view of humanity in general. With that regard, I am appreciative for the opportunity to discuss "Humanity as a Family" on Sunday.

June 12

### ENJOY THE LIGHT

A Celebration of the Summer Solstice

Some of us love religious diversity and enjoy a variety of celebrations because it is evidence of the wide range of beliefs held within our community.

Others reject the importance of celebrations other than the ones that have a long and traditional heritage and have come to be seen as 'authentic'.

Whatever your personal perspective, we hope you will come and celebrate the arrival (next week) of the longest day of the year.

Adult Forum~10

Silent Meditation~11

Worship~11:15

Fellowship Gathering~12:15

June 19 – Father's Day

### GO AHEAD, MAKE MY DAY

The Rev. Douglas Morgan Strong

There is a place where Stern/Mean/Strict collides with Tender/Gentle/Kind and at that intersection we find fatherhood, whether you're a parent or not. Are your kids like your father? How has fathering changed over three generations?

June 26

### DANCING WITH BUDDHA

The Rev. Pam Wat

When the laughing Buddha (or happy Buddha) twinkles in his eye he speaks to us about more than humor or joviality. What wisdom does he impart to those who dare to listen?

## At the Spring Congregational Meeting . . .

*“We will install our new leaders and recognize retiring leaders during worship on Sunday, June 26”*

A critical part of the May 22, 2011 spring congregational meeting was the election of people to serve in leadership positions.

We elected the slate presented by our hard working Nominating committee Shann Shubert, Cynthia Evetts and Elbert Hill who submitted a full slate for consideration.

Joining the board will be Elbert Hill, Richard Newlin; and Kat Walston; Marie

Bellman and Amy Hoffman-Shehan was reelected. The new nominating committee will be Penny Armstrong, Dianna Niemann-Harris and Charlotte Teeter. Gerry Shehan joins the Committee on Ministry.

To those completing elected service, many thanks for your willingness to serve:

Penny Armstrong, Jim Murphy and Dianna Niemann-Harris for your efforts

on the Board of Trustees; and Jim Gathier from the Committee on Ministry.

## Installing new leadership . . .

Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup> during worship we'll install our new leaders. The Rev. Pam Wat, guest minister that day, will lead us in this simple yet significant tradition of the free church.

## Manna from Marla



### Remarks from the President at the Spring Congregational Meeting:

One definition of “Appreciation” which I particularly like is – gratitude for something.

We've had a year of a lot of “some-things” to be grateful for – and at the top of my list is YOU. We're a small lot of religious liberals and without YOU we wouldn't exist. YOU have come on Sundays, served on committees and teams, dug deep financially as best you could, donated time and talent; hugs and hellos. Together YOU have become WE and WE are here this afternoon to not only do the business of our church, but to pause and appreciate one another.

Let me start, and then I'm going to ask YOU to stand and offer your own words of gratitude to anyone who you personally want to appreciate for whatever they may have done for you this year.

To our team leaders I say thanks:

- Penny Armstrong and Suzanne Durland – adult forum
- Doyle Adams, Jim Murphy and Bruce Cameron – Building & grounds
- Helen Schulze, and two newer helpers Joyce Peak and Carolyn Cameron – Children's RE
- Kat Walston, Don Mathis, and everyone else who has assisted in the nursery childcare
- Carolyn Cameron, Jim Gauthier and Peter Schulze – Committee on Ministry
- Doug Strong, Cynthia Evetts and Shann Schubert – Communications
- Marion Hill, Cynthia Evetts – Finance & Endowment
- Carolyn Cameron and Joyce Peak – Hospitality
- Elbert Hill, Shann Schubert and Cynthia Evetts – Nominating Committee
- Dianna Niemann-Harris – Social Action
- Suzanne Durland, Marion Hill, Dianna Niemann-Harris and Charlotte Teeter – Ways & Means
- Worship – Darrah Dunn and Dianna Niemann-Harris.

We on the board have seen so many members and friends who have pitched in when asked to help and even without being asked in many various projects: rearranging the Sanctuary, working on the Mission and Vision, picking up litter on highway cleanup, participating in our first ever Service Auction, contributing to the food bank and our second Sunday offering

just to name a few things. Without the involvement of YOU, the board could not be able to function. A round of verbal hugs to sustain us, encourage us and bless us.

A deep and warm thank you ... thank you ... thank you.

OK, your turn now. To whom and how would you finish one of these sentences?

*“Thank you for helping me with...”*

*“Thanks a million for...”*

*“I'm so grateful for...”*

*“Without you, I wouldn't have been able to...”*

[Note: here various congregation members gave thanks and appreciation, including a gift to Dianna Niemann-Harris]

Let us end together by speaking our covenant:

*Love is the spirit of this church and service is its law.*

*This is our great covenant, to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in freedom and to help one another.*

See you in Church, friends,

Marla

### The New UU ~ a Tapestry of Faith one day event

New to the church? Been around a while but are still filled with questions about just what it is about UUism that united us together?

The “New UU” program is an overview of our liberal religious tradition with its beginnings, growth, legacies, and aspirations. It is a crash course of 400 years of our history condensed into 3 hours 12 minutes and it is coming on **Sunday, June 26th, 12:30 – 3:42 pm.**

We’ll have serious conversations; some lighthearted exercises and no final exam! Open to everyone – those new to us; those who wander in and out once in a while and those who’ve been here a long time. There is much to explore when you have tradition that doesn’t base itself on creedal statements, professions of faith and doesn’t even label itself a “religion”.

Sign up is a snap – click [here](#) and tell us you’re coming!

PS Please bring some munchies to share.



Sunday, June 26th - 12:30 - 3:42 pm

### The Adult Forum ~ “The Four Agreements” Can you live by them?

For the four Sundays in June, the Adult Forum will be exploring “The Four Agreements” using the book of the same title by don Miguel Ruiz.

**BE IMPECCABLE WITH YOUR WORD**

The agreements sound simple but are challenging and if one is able to live by them, a life will be transformed. Imagine never taking personally anything someone says about you (easy when it is a compliment, painfully difficult when it is a critical statement, which may well reflect reality).

**DON'T TAKE ANYTHING PERSONALLY**

**DON'T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS**

The book, available for download to Kindle and other e-readers, or online from Amazon is needed since it will be difficult to discuss the context without reading the material.

**ALWAYS DO YOUR BEST.**

Amy Hoffman-Shehan will facilitate.



**Newsletter Deadline**

**Saturday, Jun 25**

**@ 5:01 pm**

**Send stuff to:**

**newsletter@rruu.org**

Even  
a bullet  
fired in love of self  
or nation  
changes course  
returns to its author  
and does what all  
bullets do.

(The Agony of Violence by Lamont Steptoe)

Andrew Bacevich, the BU professor and former Army colonel who spoke at First Parish a couple of years ago, is the author of *Washington Rules: America's Path to Permanent War*. He describes the "faith" of the American military and political establishment as comprised by two quasi-sacred articles. The first article of faith he calls "the American credo" – articulated in 1941 by Life Magazine's right-wing publisher Henry Luce who declared the 20th century to be "the American century" and urged Americans "to accept wholeheartedly our duty to exert upon the world the full impact of our influence for such purposes as we see fit and by such means as we see fit." Flowing from this is the second article of "faith," that the US must maintain "military capabilities staggeringly in excess of those required for self-defense."

Bacevich then describes three doctrines – he calls them a "trinity" – that flow from these articles of faith. The first is that the US must absolutely maintain "a global military presence."

The second is that "the US must configure its forces for global power projection." The third is that these forward-deployed forces must always be ready to "counter anticipated threats by relying on a policy of global interventionism."

Bacevich regards this faith as irrational, dangerous and self-destructive. Provocatively, he concludes, "This reliance on military might creates excuses for the United States to avoid serious engagement. Confidence in American arms has made it unnecessary to attend to what others think or consider how their aspirations might differ from our own. In this way Washington rules reinforce American provincialism – a national trait for which the United States continues to pay dearly...fixing Iraq and Afghanistan ends up taking precedence over fixing Cleveland and Detroit."

That we succeeded in killing bin Laden does not surprise me, but I am neither buoyed nor re-assured. I fear that, yet again, we have created an excuse to avoid the underlying issues. Bin Laden's death makes it seem less necessary, as Bacevich says, "to attend to what others think or consider how their aspirations might differ from our own."

I mourn – not bin Laden – but the insanity of permanent war.

John Gibbons, minister, First Parish, Bedford, MA  
published in *The Parishioner* May 11, 2011

## Bridging Ceremony for Charlie Mathis



One of the most important things we can do for our youth is to support them into adulthood, to keep them connected to Unitarian Universalism, and continue to minister to them as they become adults.

The Bridging Ceremony celebrates the transition of our youth from their high school experience into young adulthood. Charlie Mathis graduates from Sherman High School on June 4<sup>th</sup> and on Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> the congregation will honor Charlie in a Bridging Ceremony, a UU rite of passage.

After things everyone is invited to a reception celebrating Charlie's Bridging from youth to adult.

### HAPPENINGS THIS MONTH:

Fri	Jun 3	7 pm	UUJam
Sat	Jun 4	all day	Leadership Conference-Plano
Sun	Jun 5	10 am	Forum, Four Agreements
		11:15	Worship
		12:15	Bridging Ceremony
		12:15	Reception for Charlie
Sat	Jun 11	10 am	PFFFT
Sat	Jun 11	6 pm	Movable Feast
Sun	Jun 12	10 am	Forum, Four Agreements
		11:15	Worship
		12:15	Fellowship Gathering
Tue	Jun 14	6:40	Board of Trustees meeting
Sun	Jun 19	10 am	Forum, Four Agreements
		11:15	Worship
		12:15	After Church Lunch Bunch
Tue	Jun 21	7:30	The Green Team
Sun	Jun 26	10 am	Forum, Four Agreements
		11:15	Worship
		12:15	Installation new leadership
		12:30	Fellowship Gathering
		12:30	The New UU Event
		5:01 p	Newsletter Deadline

## UU Jam Makes Music Happen ~Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>

*“Music is  
Humanity’s Gift  
to Itself.”*

Musicians, Singers, Listeners...lend your...presence! Everyone is warmly invited to come.

UUJam meets in the Meadows of **Wesley Village Community Room, 2603 Meadows Dr, Denison, TX 75020-7280.** (click the address to see a map) Use of adult beverages *in modera-*

*tion* is allowed at the Community Room.

UUJam creates a circle of performers, moving around the circle as each chooses and performs a number, then the next person offers a piece. Listeners are welcome to request a song when it is their “turn”. UU Jam last 2-3 hours with the

opportunity to come and go at will, eat, laugh, share, sing, hum, whistle and be at ease. Generally the music is inside and conversation is outside.

Questions? Need a ride? Call Jack Blue who is coordinating this monthly (on the First Friday) gathering. Her number is 903.327.8710.

## Board Bits ~from the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Board Meeting

All members were present. At the request of the board, Richard Newlin, Kat Walston and Elbert Hill were in attendance since they were nominees for the Board.

In addition to normal board business the following topics were covered.

- Doyle Adams spoke about his concerns regarding flowers and a reported conflict with congregation members.
- Final organization and preparations were made for the Spring Congregational Meeting

- Determined the board goals for 2011-2012
- Worked on budget for the meeting and discussed ways to reduce the budget to the current pledged amount

The next board meeting is June 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:40 p.m. Board meetings are open to all, if you wish to be on the agenda please contact a board member agenda and reports are due on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Those wishing a few minutes during the “open mic” be ready around 7:00 pm.

## Financial Update ~the treasurer’s report

April income for RRUU was \$2,065.30 and expenses were \$3,158.44 resulting in a net loss for the month of \$1,093.06.

The Annual Stewardship Campaign continues to have activity concerning annual giving. As of mid-May the total pledged for FY 12 was \$15,060. At that time, 13 giving units (15 individuals) had yet to respond with a pledge or notification they are unable to pledge at this time. The \$84.50 *Share the Plate*

offering gathered in April went to Your Neighbor’s House in Whitesboro (see thank-you elsewhere in this newsletter). Our May 8<sup>th</sup> cash offerings went to Big Brothers/Big Sisters and in June we will *Share the Plate* with the Sherman Crisis Center which serves all of Grayson County.

End of the fiscal year accounting is in process to close out FY11. Marie Bellman, elected as Treasurer beginning July 1, has been acquainting herself with the

accounting laptop and practicing using QuickBooks. She has also learned quickly how to set up the paper copies of monthly accounting, create computer generated monthly reports and tend to the multitude of little details of her new position. It has been a joy to work with her and Marie promises to be an attentive and enthusiastic treasurer for our church!

Dianna Niemann-Harris,  
Treasurer

*“Our June  
Share the Plate  
will benefit the  
Sherman Crisis  
Center.”*

## The Sundays of May

On Sunday mornings in May we had the pleasure of pulpit guests the Rev. Pam Wat and the Rev. Douglas Morgan Strong both with timely and thought provoking messages.

The congregation celebrated a delightful Flower Communion led by Darrah Dunn assisted by Marla Loturco and Richard Newlin. For Spring Meeting Sunday we heard from NTAUUS President Daniel Polk linking our family with the larger UU move-

ment. The last Sunday of May was “Fifth Sunday Forum” when in lieu of our normal Sunday format we had an opportunity to listen and learn from Dr. Jennifer Laing, MD sharing her perceptions on the interface of spirituality and physical health.

You can download sermons each week from the sidebar on the Wednesday E-news or from the church web site.

Looking to the worship life at church in the coming year we all can help by:

- seeking a musician to play piano or keyboards for us at least once monthly
- recommending speakers who would be interesting pulpit guests
- set up the lobby each week (and put things away)
- operate the new sound system
- prepare the chalice table
- share recommendations and ideas so worship can be a reflection of who we are individually and corporately




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*“What makes UU Worship so wonderful is that you never know what may happen next!”*

## Greetings ~Your Church is Calling

Many of us remember the dreaded letter from Uncle Sam that began “Greetings: You are hereby required to appear at your local Draft Induction Center...”

Our little church is sending each of us a greeting to ask that everyone to volunteer to do something to keep us strong and healthy.

We each can give some time and share some talent or skill to help the church. Experts point out that in any church about 20% of the people carry 80% of the

work load and while we would all agree that is hardly fair it happens.

Can’t we do better? If we each give an hour here or there every month will increase that 20% to 100% and no one burns out and everyone one benefits.

The Time & Talent form is a nifty and easy way to add your talents to the pool. You can fill out your Time & Talent form quickly (in less than 3 minutes) by clicking [here](#) – what could be easier?

There are countless ways you can help and by filling out the form you are not making a lifelong commitment, just a few hours.

The more each of us can do, the deeper our community grows in fellowship.

If we each worked just seven hours a month, imagine what a difference it would make to the church.

Please fill out your form today, wouldn’t you?

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*“If we each worked just seven hours a month, imagine what a difference it would make to the church.”*



## The Larger UU Community ~General Assembly

**AVAILABLE NOW! You can watch key programs at this year's UU General Assembly online. Here's a look at some of program that may spark interest for you:**

**WED. Jun 22 – 6:00 pm**

### Opening Celebration Banner Parade

Join in opening our 50th Unitarian Universalist General Assembly with joyful worship! We'll reflect on the path we've traveled since we first gathered as Unitarians and Universalists in one strong body, and renew our aspirations and commitments. Come hear newly commissioned music and voices of past, present and rising leaders. At our first brief plenary session, we will welcome new congregations and adopt our rules of procedure.

**THURS June 23 – 6:30 pm**

### Service of the Living Tradition

This special service, held every year at General Assembly, is a time when we pause and honor the liberal ministry. During this service we remember those ministers who have died this year, issue preliminary and final fellowship to new ministers and appreciate those ministers among us who are retiring from active ministry.



*The Rev. Michael Schuler will preach "The Face of God or a Face in the Crowd?"*

Rev. Schuler has served the First Unitarian Society of Madison WI, a UUA

"Breakthrough" congregation, for 23 years. He is the author of "Making the Good Life Last: Four Keys to Sustainable Living" (Berrett-Koehle, 2009).

**The Rev. Christine Robinson**, Liturgist, has been the minister of First Unitarian Church in Albuquerque, New Mexico since November 1988.

**Michael Holmes**, Music Director at the UU Church of Silver Spring, MD, brings a vibrant musical experience to this worship service as he conducts the Service of the Living Tradition Choir. He will be joined by musicians from the UUCSS-based band "UUToo" and organist/pianist Wally Kleucker, all providing a blend of the traditional and the new.

**FRI June 24 – 6 pm**

### Epiphany Revival Show



Since the Calgary GA twenty years ago, Nick has inspired his

fellow UUs to sing out. Joined by Rev. Jason Shelton, Rev. Hope Johnson, Janice Marie Johnson, Jeanne Gagne, and others, Nick will revive our spirits, remind us to live in wonder and love and that our gifts of compassion are our natural response to a compassionate universe. Nick's healing prayer.

**SAT June 25 – 7 pm**

### Ware Lecture: "The Challenge of Compassion"



Karen Armstrong is one of the world's leading commen-

tators on religious affairs and a best-selling author, whose books have been translated into forty-five languages. Her early work focused on the monotheistic faiths of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, but she has since begun to explore the eastern religions. Since September 11, 2001, Karen Armstrong has become chiefly known for her work on Islam and Fundamentalism, particularly in the United States. She has addressed members of the United States Congress and the Senate on three occasions, has participated in the World Economic Forum in New York and Davos, has spoken at study days at the United Nations and at the NATO Naval Defense College in Rome, and has addressed the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington and New York. She has also advised members of the Dutch parliament about Islam and the integration of Muslim communities in Europe.

She is increasingly invited to address audiences in the Muslim world. In 2007 she was awarded a medal for Arts and Sciences by the Egyptian government for her services to Islam, the first foreigner to have been awarded this decoration. In the summer of 2007, she was invited by the Malaysian government to speak in Kuala Lumpur, even though her books are banned there. She also spoke at the Young Presidents' Organization in Istanbul and later that year she gave the keynote address at an international conference on Islamophobia there. In January 2008, she visited Pakistan, where she gave lectures on Islam in Lahore, Islamabad and Karachi.

In this lecture, Karen Armstrong will argue that compassion and the Golden Rule have been central to all the major faiths, will explore the reasons for this, and argue that an ideology that does not restore compassion to the center of the spiritual, religious and ethical life fails the test of our time.

*The Ware Lecture was named to honor three generations of the distinguished Ware family. The Reverend Henry Ware, Sr., became in 1805 the liberal, but controversial, Hollis Professor of Divinity at Harvard, precipitating the Unitarian movement. His son, Henry Ware, Jr., was a minister and one of the general founders of the American Unitarian Association. The grandson of the third generation, John Fothergill Waterhouse Ware, was a distinguished Boston Minister.*

Click [HERE](#) to learn how to watch GA from home

## Leadership

### Board of Trustees

Marla Loturco, *president*

Don Durland, *vice president*

Dianna Niemann-Harris, *Treasurer*

Penny Armstrong

Marie Bellman

Amy Hoffman-Shehan

Jim Murphy

### Committee on Ministry:

Carolyn Cameron

Jim Gauthier

Peter Schulze

### Team Leaders:

Adult Forum: *Penny Armstrong & Suzanne Durland*

Building/Grounds: *Doyle Adams*

Communications: *Doug Strong*

Finance/Endowment: *Marion Hill*

Hospitality: *Carolyn Cameron & Joyce Peak*

Newsletter: *Cynthia Evett & Doug Strong*

Worship: *Dianna Niemann-Harris*

Ways & Means: *Don & Suzanne Durland*

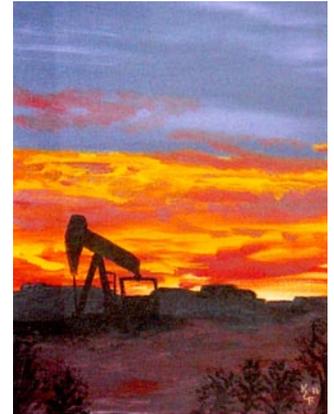
## Art Show in Durant . . .

Ken Fletcher has entered three of his recent paintings in the ninth annual Magnolia Festival Art Show in Durant Jun 3 & 4. The judging and awards will be done Thurs. Jun 2.

Most of Ken's inspirations come from the glorious sunsets from his front porch. The many photos

are often combined to create a single painting in acrylics within a couple of hours a week.

The Magnolia Festival Art Show in Durant will be his first competition with winners to be announced after this deadline. Ken hopes this will be the first of many.



"Texoma Crude"

## A Thank You ~ from Your Neighbor's House

April's *Share the Plate* totaled \$84.50.

The congregation was sent a warm note of appreciation from Your Neighbor's House: The following note of thanks was received in response to this sharing:

Dear Friends,

We gratefully acknowledge your donation and appreciate your willingness to help us maintain an outreach service to those in our community who may need a helping hand.

Thank You so much!

Ann Bell, Exec Director  
Your Neighbor's House

## Chalice Circles ~ Everyone is invited!

### RED RIVER Unitarian Universalists

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Denison, TX 75021

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Phone: 903.465.5515

Web: [www.rruu.org](http://www.rruu.org)

Subscribe to the weekly

E-News:

[announcements@rruu.org](mailto:announcements@rruu.org)

**GREEN TEAM**, an Environmental Action Circle, will meet **Jun 21 at 7:30** at Amy Hoffman-Shehan's home. Facilitator is [Amy Hoffman-Shehan](#).

**MOVEABLE FEAST**, a Cooking and/or Eating Circle, meets on moveable dates at moveable locations. The group will travel to Van Alstyne on **Saturday, Jun 21** Facilitators are [Elbert & Marion Hill](#).

**PFFFT**, an Outdoor Activities Interest Circle, meets the 2nd Saturday of each month at 10:00 am at Hagerman Wildlife Refuge. Facilitator is [Suzanne Durland](#).

**RED RIVER EARTH SPIRIT**, a Nature-Based Spirituality Circle, are meeting in early June to finalize plans for the June 12<sup>th</sup> Summer Solstice service. Facilitator is [Penny Armstrong](#).

**UUJAM**, a music making and music listening Circle – highlighted this month on page 5. Facilitator is [Jack Blue](#).