



Red River Ramblings

October Sunday Mornings ~To Enrich our Lives

Sunday, October 7th

Catholics and Muslims and Me, Oh My!

The Rev. Douglas Morgan Strong, *preaching*

Elie Wiesell writes, "No human race is superior; no religious faith is inferior. All collective judgments are wrong. Only racists make them." I have a growing fear that overwhelms me when an obscure video causes such outrage and rioting. I have a growing fear that the only solution more and more people see is complete domination of that which is different. I also fear that there are times when I think such solutions might be OK and that really frightens me! I wonder how in the world can we respond? How can we become part of a solution that thwarts collective judgment in favor of mutual respect?

Sunday, October 14th

The Sound of the Violin in My Lai

Mr. Mike Boehm, *speaking*

Forty years ago a small group of Quakers in Madison, WI began a humanitarian project in My Lai, Viet Nam. Since then they have established a number of projects in My Lai and more than 20 other villages in Quany Ngai province. The objectives of these projects are to empower women, provide a more secure livelihood to impoverished families and encourage community involvement.

These Quakers are sowing seeds of peace and friendship and their director, Viet Nam veteran Mike Boehm will share their inspiring and compassionate story of how they

have built strong lasting relationships with these humanitarian projects in Viet Nam. One of the highlights of their efforts was the creation of a short documentary film which we'll screen during the service.

Sunday, October 21st

Existentialist Hymns

The Rev. Dr. Don Fielding, *speaking*

Modern secular and popular music has occasionally conveyed religious themes, but what about philosophical themes?

This Reflection uses some fairly recent popular music to express some existential thought, but there has also been some existential answers to the musical questions existentialism has generated. I think you will enjoy this presentation of philosophical music.

Sunday, October 28th

Women in Black

The Rev. Dr. Christine Tata, *preaching*

In liberal religious circles, women in the pulpit may no longer raise eyebrows. Gender politics today may seem diffuse and desultory; perhaps the women's movements are over. But in the mid-nineteenth century, the vote and the voice for women were both hotly contested. Dr. Tata will introduce some of the ground-breaking women preachers from the Unitarian and Universalist traditions and trace their influences on the political and spiritual landscape – influences that continue today, in ways we may take strangely for granted.

INSIDE:

- Fall Congregational Meeting
- "Expanding Our Understanding" Webinar Conference
- New UU Program coming in Nov & Dec

Elbert's Letter	2
Cong. Meeting	2
Circle of Friends	3
Adult Forum	3
Treasurer's Report	4
Webinar conf.	4
New UU	5
Fragrance issues	5
Church calendar	5
Booked for lunch	5
Meditation Gp.	6
Chalice circles	6
Leadership list	6





Epistle from Elbert

Please don't forget the Congregational meeting on October 21, in the chapel after worship service. We will be discussing several issues of interest to all members.

At the September board meeting, the board voted to accept a proposal to build a playground behind the church building. \$1,500 has already been donated specifically for that purpose, an amount that should just about cover the cost of fencing materials and labor. Gil and Marilyn Alexander, members of RRUU, will be ordering materials and overseeing the work.

Keeping the church going on a weekly basis involves many small tasks, such as taking the offering or making sure the church is neat, restrooms supplied with paper products, etc. Often church members and friends don't think to offer help doing any of these, perhaps because they haven't been asked and aren't sure what's needed. Very soon the board will be identifying such small tasks and circulating a list. Please look over the list and commit to doing one or more of these jobs, for whatever length of time you can. As the saying goes, "Many hands make light work," and participation by everyone can keep the church humming along during a time when we can't afford paid help and must rely on everyone's contributions of time. Thanks, all.

Last month, I began referring to the Behavioral Covenant adopted by the RRUU congregation in November, 2009, as a reminder of how we have agreed to behave with each other.

This month, I'm focusing on the section that says, "*We will communicate with respect and genuine positive regard . . . by considering others' perspectives.*" We are unabashedly a liberal religion, and many UUs are liberal socially and politically as well, but these do not always—and do not have to—go together. Please be mindful that some among our members and visitors vote and express political beliefs different from those of the majority in our congregations. Disrespecting such differences could drive away individuals who share our religious path, and we could thus lose valuable perspective that might point us all toward better ways of putting our principles into practice. I'm not saying we need to toe a line of any kind, nor should we attempt to be something we're not. I'm only suggesting that we be fair, and remember how uncomfortable it can feel to be in the minority.

See you in church, friends!

Elbert

The Fall Congregational Meeting Sunday, October 21, 2012 12:45 p.m. - in the chapel

This is the meeting where we hear reports from all church committees, interest groups, chalice circles and teams. We will also have an open discussion concerning fragrance sensitivity.

The right of our church to govern itself in all matters is a cherished tradition of the free church. All members are urged to attend and friends of the congregation are warmly invited as well.

We'll have a light buffet to ward off hunger.

UU Circle of Friends ~Week end retreat Oct 19-21

The U U Circle of Friends Singles Of Wildflower Church and First UU Church of Austin Announce Their Third Annual Retreat October 19, 20 and 21, 2012 at [U Bar U in Mountain Home Retreat Center](#). UU's from Texas and Friends who aren't UU's are invited to attend.

Friday: Attendees arrive starting at 3:00 pm. They meet others as they enjoy the ranch atmosphere, a weenie roast with vegetarian option and s'mores, and Steve's music around the campfire (no fire if there is a burn ban). BYOB Guests may bring their own musical instruments. We have computer access.

Saturday: Guests breakfast at 8:00. Speaker Dwayne Windham will discuss "A Centered Heart." We lunch at noon. The topic is discussed, then attendees choose from outdoor activities such as: walking the labyrinth, mediating under a tree, reading, writing, or swimming in the tank. Indoor activities are board games, movies or documentaries, and more. Writers may read a short piece of their writing in a writers group. Cocktails start at 5:30 followed by supper at 6:00. Steve will play and sing for us.

Sunday: Tai chi and meditation starts at 7:00. After breakfast, we'll have a short closure, and a group picture. Everyone is welcome to visit with new friends, explore the ranch, and enjoy leftovers-for-lunch before heading out.

The cost is \$125 per person which includes bed (bunk house twin) and board. Camping is available. Register [here](#). Questions? Email us [here](#)

Adult Forum ~Sunday Mornings at 10 a.m.

7 October--Number six in the series of The Theory of Evolution lectures by Professor Edward Larson at the University of Georgia and The Great Courses. This lesson covers the late 19th century and those intent on proving the theory of evolution by hunting for missing links in the fossil record.

14 October--Number seven in the series of The Theory of Evolution lectures by Professor Edward Larson at the University of Georgia and The Great Courses. This lesson deals with evolutionists with doubts and disagreement at the beginning of the 20th century, and genetics enters the picture.

21 October--Number eight in The Theory of Evolution series by Professor Edward Larson of the University of Georgia. Evolutionary thinking in biology spilled over into social thought. Herbert Spencer had promoted the idea of a survival-of-



the-fittest process and with Darwinian biology Spencer's beliefs gained favor. It was called "social Darwinism" and theories about the evolution of humans began to influence how people should live.

28 October--Choice of Topics will be led by Gil Alexander with a continuation of the letters from Galileo's daughter, including excerpts from the book.

Financial Update ~the treasurer's report

In August we received another generous donation of \$2,000 for the chapel renovations and spent \$2,221. At the end of August we had \$3,921 available for general renovations.

Thanks to our Share the Plate program, in August we contributed \$70 to the Earth Day Festival.

Excluding the renovations discussed above, in the month of August we had income of \$2,183 from general operations. After operations expense of \$2,185, we had a net loss from operations of \$2.

For the year to date period of July through August 2012, we had income of \$730 from operations on the P&L. However, this amount does not in-

clude the cash payment of principal on our loan. The change in cash from general operations including the payment of principal was a loss of \$314 year to date.

We are doing better than we budgeted, primarily due to renovation donations and to budgeted expenses that have not occurred. As of the end of August 2012, we had cash of \$37,431 and debt of \$46,901.

Carole Harner,
Treasurer

"In the month of August we had income of \$2,183 and expenses of \$2,185 ~ leaving us a net loss from the operation budget of two bucks."

Expanding our understanding ~ A special webinar workshop Oct 17th

Standing on the Side of Love is offering a brilliant "Transgender Identity & Inclusion" workshop as a webinar on Wednesday, October 17, 7:00-8:15 pm ET. [Click here to register.](#)

This free webinar introduces us to Alex Kapitan, a person who will challenge our assumptions, shatter our stereotypes and deepen our compassion for people who are transgendered.

Alex is funny, engaging,

empathetic, self-deprecating, and wicked smart. Alex's interactive webinar will provide practical, concrete ways for increasing our mindfulness and support of people of all identities and ways of expressing gender.

The workshop is for everyone—whether you've had zero exposure to these issues or live them every day. Participants will gain a greater understanding of terminology, the experiences of transgender people, and the ways in which all of us are impacted by gender norms and expectations.

Please join the "Transgender Identity and Inclusion" webinar. [Click here to register.](#)

Bring your questions and your curiosity and prepare to be informed, uplifted, and—perhaps most important—changed.

"A workshop to challenge assumptions, shatter stereotypes & deepen compassion."

The New UU ~ Answers to all your questions!

The New UU program provides important tools to help congregations welcome, orient, and integrate newcomers into our faith community. The program addresses the needs of newcomers who want to know more about who we are and what we believe. It provides opportunities for members of our congregation to share with newcomers what it means to them to be a Unitarian Universalist. It gives newcomers a

chance to examine their own personal stories in the light of our Unitarian Universalist tradition and heritage. It provides a chance for newcomers to the congregation and long-timers to connect. It provides an explicit invitation to become a member.

We will hold a two-part New UU program on two Sunday afternoons - **November 11th and December 9th from 12:30 - 2 pm.**

Everyone is warmly invited to attend. A quick informal survey of several newcomers to our congregation made it clear that Sunday afternoon is the best and most available date which is why Marion Hill and Doug Strong (the co-leaders) selected Sunday afternoon.

Save the dates now and we'll see you at the New UU!

The Church Calendar ~ is but a click away 24/7

Remember that the church calendar is always available on line. You can access it by clicking on the logo to the right or on the church web site or Facebook page.

You can also copy the link below and paste it into your smart phone. If you use Google calendar, you can link it to your personal calendar as well.

Here's the link:

www.localendar.com/public/rruucalendar?style=D2



Fragrance sensitivity

Sometimes the freshest aroma is no aroma. We have in our midst several people who get a headache, have trouble breathing or develop a skin rash after exposure to strong perfumes, colognes, fresh paint, smoke, mold or many other potent smells. Fragrance sensitivity makes being in a room filled with scents from hand lotion, of perfumes, or scented candles etc. a difficult and painful experience. At our Fall Congregational Meeting we'll have an open discussion to see if we can find ways to support those among us who find themselves staying away because they suffer from fragrance sensitivity.

Booked For Lunch ~ Oct 11th



BOOKED FOR LUNCH will meet October 11 at 11. Bring a sack lunch or pick up some fast food. Come prepared to talk about anything you've read recently and perhaps anything you've done recently.

There are no rules; we just have fun. Iced tea will be provided as well as English cookies from some flight attendants!

Leadership

Board of Trustees

Elbert Hill, *president*
 Carla Murphy, *vice president*
 Carole Harner, *Treasurer*
 Carolyn Cameron, *Secretary*
 Paula Blackshear, *Trustee*
 Marla Loturco, *Past President*

Committee on Ministry:

Gerry Shehan
 Peter Schulze
 Joyce Peak

Team Leaders or Team:

Adult Forum: *Joyce*

Aesthetics Team:

Bruce, Joyce, Maura, Doug & Kat

Building/Grounds: *Carolyn*

Communications: *Doug*

Chalice coordinator: *open*

Finance/Endowment: *Dan*

Good Times:

*George, Carolyn, Carole, Faye,
 Lura & Marion*

Long Range Planning:

Amy, Gil, Marilyn, George

Membership: *Marion*

Nominations: *Faye, Doug, Marla*

NTAUUS Rep: *Marla*

Safe Congregation Panel: *Elbert*

Social Action: *Open*

Ways & Means: *Open*

Worship:

Carla, Doug, Faye, Gerry, Marla

The Meditation Group ~ October 28th

In our hectic lives, it is a gift to find time and a place to meditate. If this sounds like something you need or want, then come to the next Meditation group gathering - we meet the last Sunday of each month at 12:30 and conclude, an hour later, with a potluck lunch for those who participate.

Meditation takes all sorts of forms, come and learn how you can carve out a time each day, or week at home to give yourself the gift of meditation. The rewards are plenty!

Chalice Circles/Interest Groups ~ for us all!

GREEN TEAM, an Environmental Action Circle generally meets on the second Tuesday at 7:30 pm. Facilitator [Amy Hoffman-Shehan](#)

MOVEABLE FEAST, a Cooking and/or Eating Circle meets next in October. The next feast will be Oct 5. Speak with the facilitators: [Elbert & Marion Hill](#).

“OMMMM...” Meditation Group Will meet the last Sunday of every month. The date for the next meeting is October 28th. CD Meditations and Drumming Circle with Potluck to follow – come join the fun at 12:30 PM in the Adult Forum Room. Facilitators [Joyce Peak and Paula Blackshear](#).

BOOKED FOR LUNCH, an informal book discussion group that meets the second Thursday of each month from 11 - 1 pm at church. Open to everyone. Facilitator: [Carolyn Cameron](#).

RED RIVER

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