



Red River Ramblings

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February Sunday Mornings ~To Enrich our Lives

Sunday, February 3, 2013

Down in My Soul

The Rev. Sam Schaal, *preaching*

So often we wander through life on the surface and in the shallows. But within us, perhaps, are the voices from our depths, calling us to live from a deeper and more sustaining place. What is in the depth of your soul? What is at the heart of our soul of our faith as a religious community?

The Rev. Samuel Schaal has served UU churches as a consulting Transition Minister around the Midwest and Southwest. He is back home in Dallas preaching in area pulpits and consulting for church stewardship programs. He is also building a financial chaplaincy practice to help individuals discover their deeply held values as a foundation for a heart-centered approach to financial planning.

Sunday, February 10, 2013

Remember to return your Guest At Your Table Boxes Today (details on page 4)

Change IS Love

The Rev. Doug Strong, *preaching*

Some people abhor change and strive for consistency, even if it means closing their minds. Some see change as an evil necessity and accept it grudgingly. Some embrace change with a passion and champion its cause. Recent comments from some public figures have shocked and delighted me to the core. On Sunday I want to look at the ways change enhances and inhibits our world and our religion.

Share the Plate Sunday: All cash donations will go to the Texoma Earth Day Festival

Sunday, February 17, 2013

Buddhism for Beginners

The Rev. Dr. Christine Tata, *preaching*

Buddhism has been growing in the U.S. for the past several generations, and it offers us wisdom that is radically different from the wisdom of Western religious traditions. There is much to be learned from study of the various forms of Buddhism – but can a Westerner be anything more than a Buddhist wannabe? Join Dr. Tata for an admiring, aspiring look at a tradition that has compassion for all living beings at its core.

Sunday, February 24, 2013

The Role of Faith in the Struggle for Black Equality: The Case of Malcolm X

Professor Jacqueline M. Moore, *speaking*

While many people know about the religious roots of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s civil rights philosophy, few have looked at how faith influenced Malcolm X's nationalist beliefs and actions. Although his initial involvement with the Nation of Islam (NOI) gave him a distorted concept of Islamic theology, his belief in the justice of his God reinforced his bold statements and helped shape his nationalist arguments. His ultimate break with the NOI and Hajj to Mecca allowed him to explore visions of faith that were less condemnatory of whites and shaped a new global perspective that influenced other Civil Rights leaders.

Jacqueline M. Moore is Professor of History at Austin College where she teaches US, Asian and African American history. She is the co-editor of Rowman and Littlefield's African American

~ Continued on Page 2



Epistle from Elbert

In case anyone hasn't yet heard, RRUU did receive two grants from NTXUU (the organization of North Texas UU congregations, formerly called NTAUUS)

that totaled \$9,000, one for hiring a Religious Education Coordinator, the other for paying visiting ministers. The letter from the NTXUU Endowment Committee stated that RRUU can also use any amount left over from the grant money for "miscellaneous facilities projects." Thanks to everyone who worked on our grant proposals, especially Doug Strong and Marion Hill for writing them.

Elsewhere in this newsletter and by e-mail, you will be encouraged to attend our (now) annual Appreciation Dinner on February 21. Please do plan to come and express your appreciation to others in our church community for contributions they have made during the past year or years. Some may wish to make a general acknowledgement of the efforts of everyone in the congregation, and that's certainly appropriate since "doing church" is a group effort that requires many hands. But also please use the opportunity of this dinner to let one

specific individual (or maybe two or three) know that his or her specific contributions have been noticed and are valued.

Our church has made a commitment to furnish a meal once a quarter to the residents of the Grayson County Shelter (the county's only homeless shelter and a close neighbor of RRUU in our new location). The next such meal is scheduled for March 13. If you are interested in helping with this meal (preparing food and/or serving it at the shelter, then eating and chatting with the residents) or a future such meal, please contact Marion Hill, (see details below). Shelter meals are served at about 6:00 p.m., and RRUUers will arrive there with food between 5:30 and 6:00.

The nominations committee will be contacting members of the congregation soon to staff some committees, and I hope everyone will seriously consider serving in whatever capacity you're asked to serve. In fact, even if you're not asked to take on a certain role, feel free to volunteer! In a small church such as ours, it's especially important that each of us plays our part.

See you in church, friends!
Elbert

Shelter Dinner ~ March 13th

Last November our congregation prepared and took dinner to the residents at the Grayson County Shelter - they are our neighbors at the end of the block.

Those who participated enjoyed the project and decided to join with other Denison congregations that prepare dinners for the Shelter. The next time we're scheduled to make dinner is Thursday, March 13th.

Marion Hill has arranged with the Shelter for us to prepare dinner on that date. Some of us will also serve the meal (about 6:00 pm) and eat and chat with the residents.

Anyone interested in helping with this meat in any way should contact Marion [here](#).

Booked for Lunch ~ Feb 14th



The book group will meet on Valentine's Day, Thursday, February 14th at 11 a.m. Bring anything you've read recently, are currently reading, plan to read etc.

Lunch will NOT be provided this month because the lunch lady will be out of town until moments before we meet. Cookies, iced tea and coffee will be provided. If you need more, feel free to bring a sandwich.

Jacqueline M. Moore - Continued from Page 1

History Series and the author of several books including Leading the Race: The Transformation of the Black Elite in the Nation's Capital, 1880-1920, and Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. Du Bois, and the Struggle for Racial Uplift. She is currently writing a textbook entitled Issues in Race and Civil Rights since 1865.

Name This Room ~ The Winning Names!

The Board reviewed the various suggestions (some were right amusing) and selected the names.

The Chapel - When we purchased the building the addition added (probably in the 1960's) had a name plate "The Chapel". The board chose to keep the name.

The Foyer - is the area outside the Chapel doors.

The Upper Foyer - outside the Clara Barton Parlor

The Veranda - the large porch outside the Parlor

The Soul Café - well known to us all



The Clara Barton Parlor - Named for Clara Barton, a life-long Unitarian who is probably best known for her work in equality and social justice. After witnessing the lack of help given wounded soldiers left on battlefields during the civil war, she cam-

paigned and founded an organization devoted to helping those in need: The American National Red Cross.



The Emerson Room - named for Ralph Waldo Emerson, whose original profession and calling was as a Unitarian minister, left the ministry to pursue a career in writing, public speaking and led the Transcendentalist movement. He became one of America's best known and

best loved 19th century figures.



The Forrest Church Library - The son of Senator Frank Church, the Rev. Dr. Forrest Church was a leading UU minister, author of ten books and one of our best know 20th century UU theologians. .

On February 4, 2008, Church sent a letter to the members of his congregation informing them that he had terminal cancer. He shared his

dying process in his work in a final book, entitled *Love & Death*.



The Susan B. Anthony Room - An activist, reformer, teacher, and lecturer, Susan B. Anthony dedicated her life to promoting woman suffrage and paved the way for the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. She authored the original text of the Amendment

which was passed 14 years after her death.



The Beatrix Potter Nursery - Named for the Unitarian English author, illustrator, natural scientist and conservationist probably best known for her imaginative children's books featuring animals such as those in *The Tales of Peter Rabbit* which celebrated the British landscape and country life.

Appreciation Dinner ~

February 21st (starting at 6 pm) is the big night when we will ALL get together to look back on what we've accomplished in the past year and take the time to thank each other. Your presence is needed. You have worked hard and we need to honor that. Everyone else has worked to make it happen and you will want to let them know their value to you. Don't assume it can happen without you.

If you don't care for cooking we can suggest things that don't even require heat - iced tea, ice bread, etc. The important thing is to BE THERE. If you haven't marked your calendar, please do it now.



Adult Forum for February ~ Building Your Own Theology

SUNDAY MORNINGS - 10 - 11 am In the Clara Barton Parlor

February 3

"Words and deeds of prophetic women and men"

The Bylaws of the UU Association inform us that 'the living tradition we share draws from many sources,' and after naming them, concludes (that) we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision.

We look to our heroes---our prophets---as standards by which to measure ourselves. We may believe they're divine incarnations, then we dissect them with a moral scalpel.

We will have a short email reading, followed Sunday by discussion about our religious authorities and the strengths and weaknesses of diversity in religion.

February 10

"Wisdom from the world's religions, which inspire us in our ethical & spiritual life"

The great religions provide historical significance and demonstrate tolerance for them as far back as the 1568 Edict of Torda, signed by Unitarian King John Sigismund of Transylvania. This tradition continues through the centuries, often demonstrating religion basis in pagan views. We will have a short email reading followed by discussing what is and is not important to each of us.

February 17

"Jewish and Christian teachings that call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves"

The central theme of Judaism is a covenant with God, and here we come to the sometimes troublesome concept of them being the "chosen people." Traditionally Unitarian Universalists have been ambivalent about their Jewish and Christian heritage, currently saying we

are neither Christian nor non-Christian. Liberal Christianity is a powerful force among us because it provides a coherent perspective and a consistent theology, although literalists belittle the language and the idea of heaven, earth and hell. We will have an email reading with discussion and questions.

February 24

"Humanist teachings, which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit"

Religious humanism is as old as the Greek philosophers and as old as Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism.....all non-theistic faiths. It is also as new as 20th century UUs seeking to be differently religious in the face of growing religious fundamentalism. We will have an email reading with discussion and questions.



Bring Them Back!

Please remember to bring back your

Guest At Your Table Boxes

on Sunday, Feb 10th. It will be most helpful if you would convert the contents into one check, payable to UUSC since we can't send coins to Boston!

Thanks for all who participated in this worthwhile UU project.

Financial Update ~ From the church treasurer

I'd like to thank everyone who made an extra donation in December. We received both additional year end donations in response to the letter from our president and additional donations to cover renovations. We also received another \$350 from the sale of book-marks. I'm lucky to be part of such a generous, hard working group!

In the month of December we had income of \$3,471 from general operations. This income includes cash collected as special year end donations. After operations expense of \$1,717, we had a net income from operations of \$1,754.

I'm very pleased to announce that we have moved into a cash generating position with a

total increase in cash of \$658 year to date. This is much better than our budget. The improvement is primarily due to lower expenses than budgeted and to additional donations.

As of the end of December 2012, we had cash of \$39,098, including \$4,368 reserved for renovations, and debt of \$45,847.

In December we contributed \$12 to the Earth Day Festival from the Share the Plate program. This amount was lower than usual probably due to our failure to announce that it was the second Sunday. Year to date, we have contributed \$245 to the Grayson County Shelter and \$169 to the Earth Day festival.

Carole Harner, Treasurer

Board Bits ~ From the January 10, 2013 board meetings.

At its January 10 meeting, the RRUU board made further plans for the February 21 Appreciation Dinner at the church. Board members will handle set-up and clean-up, and all members are asked to bring potluck.

A Memorial Tree (to replace the one donated by former member Pam Nelson following the death of her daughter, which had to be left at the church's old location at 102 Harrison) has been purchased and planted between the garage and the fenced playground. It is a maple and should have beautiful color in the fall season. Thanks to Carolyn Cameron for researching and selecting an appropriate tree, and to Marilyn Alexander and her helpers for picking it up and planting it.

We are planning a church-wide workshop to brainstorm areas of concern, such as how to increase both membership and attendance, with a consultant to assist our deliberations. We had hoped to schedule the workshop in early February, but various conflicts have pushed the date forward. It now seems that it will occur in April.

The Name This Room Project has been completed. Check out the new name plates on the rooms to see how you like the choices. Thanks to everyone who suggested names for rooms, and to Doug Strong for producing the name plates.

The next board meeting is February 14 at 1:00 p.m. (13:00 hours). Anyone is welcome to attend. Time is set aside for anyone to ask questions, raise concerns, etc.

"The Name This Room Project is done. Thanks for all the suggestions. Check out the new name plates on the rooms to see how you like the choices.."

Two To Appreciate ~ Faye & Marilyn

Thanks and Kudos to Marilyn Alexander and Faye Shadrick who spent the other day transforming the yard, They leveled dirt, removed stumps, planted nandinas and even put up siding on parts of the garages. They got loads of help from an assortment of some kids Marilyn knows (there was no school so she got them to work). They even hauled off all the debris!



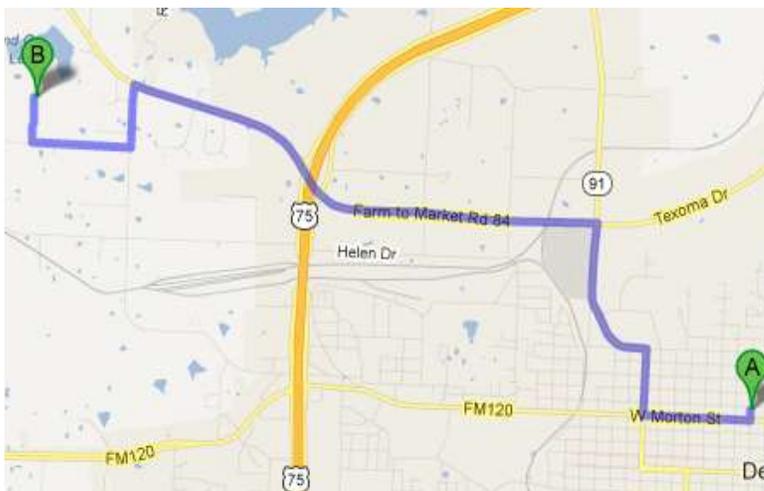
Out To Lunch ~ February 17th



Once a month everyone is invited to go Out To Lunch together. This no-agenda, completely social event is a wonderful way to get to know folks and enjoy breaking bread together.

This month someone suggested that we try out the restaurant located at the Denison Country Club. The menu is varied, the prices are reasonable and according to those who have been - the food is good.

We have a reservation for 12:30 pm. The Country Club is located at 5216 FM 84 in Denison. If you need it: their number is 903.465.4488. Here's a map:



Got Great Penmanship?

The invitations for our Building Dedication service (on March 24th @ 3 pm) need to be addressed. If you have great penmanship come help address the envelopes - Sun. Feb 10. We'll have the addresses, envelopes, stamps and pens available. Meet in the Emerson Room at 12:30.

Home Hospitality Needed ...

There are times when the Worship Team invites a guest speaker who needs to leave their home on Saturday to travel to Denison and would appreciate home hospitality (our budget doesn't cover hotel expenses).

If you would enjoy hosting a visiting minister or lay speaker sometime (in the last year we've needed a place three times), please let the Worship Team know. Click [here](#).

District Annual Meeting...

The South West district Spring Festival and Annual Assembly will be at First UU Church of San Antonio April 19-21. The Rev. Dr. William Schultz will be the keynoter. Special musical guest will be Peter Mayer. Come renew old friendships and make new ones. [Read more and register here.](#)

Leadership

Board of Trustees

Elbert Hill, *president*
 Carolyn Cameron, *vice president*
 Carole Harner, *Treasurer*
 Doug Strong, *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: *Open*

Communications: *Doug*

Chalice coordinator: *Open*

Finance/Endowment: *Dan*

Good Times: *Carolyn, Carole,
 Lura, Marilyn & Marion*

Long Range Planning:

Amy, Gil, Marilyn

Membership: *Marion*

Nominations: *Faye, L.D., Marla*

NTAUUS Rep: *Marla*

Safe Congregation Panel: *Elbert*

Social Action: *Open*

Ways & Means: *Open*

Worship:

Carla, Doug, Faye, Marla

Remember our Building Dedication ~ Mar. 24

Our Building Dedication Service will be Sunday, March 24, 2013 @ 3:00 pm. We will have no morning service that day, however people are invited and urged to come in the morning to help spruce up our home for the big day!

The choir from Community UU Church in Plano will sing; the sermon is from the President of the UUA, the Rev. Peter Morales (on video, a move to reduce the UU carbon foot print, save money and yet reach out). Several people from church will speak. It promises to be a great afternoon.

The reception following will involve many people helping in many ways. Look for ways you can show your love of church in next month's newsletter and the weekly e-news.

Chalice Circles/Interest Groups ~ for us all!

GREEN TEAM, an Environmental Action Circle is working on the upcoming Earth Day Festival. Facilitator [Amy Hoffman-Shehan](#).

MOVEABLE FEAST, a Cooking and/or Eating Circle will join the Appreciation Dinner on Feb 21st. Speak with the facilitators: [Elbert & Marion Hill](#).

"OMMMM..." Meditation Group will meet the last Sunday of every month when they resume in March. 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 from 11 - 1. Facilitator: [Carolyn Cameron](#). NOTE: Next meeting is February 14th

OUT TO LUNCH, One Sunday a month after things we go out for a Dutch-treat lunch. There is no agenda, no reports, no minutes - just everyone heading out and breaking bread together. This month's gathering will be at the Denison Country Club on February 17th. Details on page 6. Email announcements@rruu.org if you have a restaurant suggestion.

RED RIVER

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