



Red River Ramblings

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Church Calendar
for the next 30 days



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Five Sunday in March ~to enhance our journeys

Sunday, March 3, 2013

This I Believe:

Five Members Share their Credo

Marion Hill, Bruce Cameron, Judy Donahue,
Dan Althoff & Marilyn Alexander

We all have a foundation upon which we build our religious philosophy. It is nestled deep in our soul rather than printed in any brochure and hungers to be shared. It comes from the depth of our own thought and heart. It is the core of our individual spiritual path. Credo literally means, "I give my heart and loyalty to..." Astute credos marry the gifts of both intellect and spirit. Credos spur presenters to select highlights from their religious odyssey, highlight in those affirmations that sustain them during the happy and hard days and nights of life.

Sunday, March 10, 2013 (Daylight time starts)

**Bodies, Bucks and Buildings,
Pills and Plums**

The Rev. Doug Strong, preaching

This March is an amazing month for our small congregation as we complete fifteen years of liberal religion in Texoma on the 26th and look forward to a bright future. We have our own building which we'll dedicate in two weeks, a new religious education program for youngsters, along with a Flower communion and a New Member Ceremony on Easter. On Sunday I want to take a look at who we are, where we've been and what brings us joy.

Sunday, March 17, 2013

Fate, Free Will and Fantasy

The Rev. Dr. Christine Tata, *preaching*

As we approach Palm Sunday, which is next week we may wonder how much of our lives is

pre-determined and how much is our free will at work. From classical metaphysics to a post-Christian worldview, the question has not yet been settled. Will you be there that Sunday by choice or by cosmic design? Let's live in the question a little.

Sunday, March 24, 2013 - 3:00 p.m.

Note: No Morning Worship today

The Building Dedication Service

A Glorious Singing, Listening, Rejoicing, Sharing, Watching and Learning Celebration...
with the Choir from Community UU Church, a sermon (on video) from Rev. Peter Morales, President of the UUA, participation from many members and friends of the congregation, ending with a reception served throughout the building and even on the veranda. Come, come, do come!

Sunday, March 31, 2013

A Special Easter Morning

with Flutist Cornell Kinderknecht,

along with

**Flower Communion
New Member Ceremony**



Cornell Kinderknecht is an award-nominated recording artist and performer of flutes and other woodwind instruments from around the world, including Native American flute, bansuri flute from India, ocarina, recorder and bamboo flutes. His original compositions and playing have been described as soothing, soaring, haunting, and playful with influences of Native America, the Middle East, India, and the Far East. His musical style draws from his experience in the areas of classical, pop, folk, jazz and world music.

Flower Communion: Remember to bring a ...

~ Continued on Page 2



Epistle from Elbert

On Thursday, February 21, RRUU held its second annual Appreciation Dinner at the church. The food was abundant and

delicious, the conversation convivial, and the expressions of appreciation for the contributions of individuals who make up RRUU many and heartfelt.

Marla Loturco was presented with the Bruce Cameron Distinguished Service Award, which recognizes outstanding volunteerism during the past year. Marla has not only been the main force for keeping us together as a church since the division we experienced in 2009, and for shepherding us through the move to our new location, but she has also been of great help to me personally as I try to lead our congregation as president. I do not take easily to administrative tasks!

Do make plans to attend the Appreciation Dinner next year, which will be scheduled on or about the third Thursday in February. It truly is a great occa-

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 meal in any way should contact Marion [here](#).

sion to get together over food and drink and celebrate what we all do for each other and for RRUU.

Don't forget our Building Dedication on March 24. Rev. Peter Morales, President of UUA, will bring us his good wishes in a video message. We want all members and friends to be involved in this ceremony that celebrates the milestone of buying, renovating, and occupying the first meeting space RRUU has ever owned!

Also, remember our Saturday workshop (10:00-12:30) on April 6. Come and help plan how we might make RRUU even better.

See you in church, friends,

Elbert

Booked for Lunch ~ Mar 14th



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

If you want to munch, feel free to bring a sandwich.

Easter Sunday - Mar 31 Continued ...

a flower or two with you for our annual Flower Communion.

We will also officially welcome several new members into the congregation with a brief New Member Ceremony. If you wish to be included, please see specifics about joining the church on page 5.

Mr. Kinderknecht will have CD's available for purchase following the service.

A morning of soothing music, beautiful flowers and warm fellowship - a perfect UU Easter!

Come Make Bookmarks

We want to offer our homemade book marks during our building dedication service and to that end Marilyn and Gil Alexander have invited us to their home after things on **Sun. March 3rd** to make bookmarks.

Gil has an idea for using fly tying vises and bobbins for tying the wire around the ends that may make it much easier. He has lots of fly tying vises from a class he taught.

Bring a dish to share and we'll break bread while we make book marks.

Address: 815 Hendrix Road, Colbert, OK 74733
580.283.3312

Folks can car pool from church or follow Gil and Marilyn!

Meet Our New D.R.E



Lesli Dauenbaugh moved to Sherman last month from Illinois where she and husband Rick along with their two kids, Matisse (8) and Hawk (4) were active in the Bloomington UU church. Lesli served a term on the Board of Trustees.

She is a licensed massage therapist by training, a mother by choice and one of the important hopes to her in moving to Texas was to finding a local UU congregation. She found RRRUU just as we were receiving our NTAUUS grant to fund a Director of Religious Education position.

The DRE Search Team was thrilled to learn she was interested in applying for the position. Everything fell into place, her references were sterling, her enthusiasm is contagious and the Board vote unanimous.

The first Sunday for our R.E. program will be March 31. During the month she will be getting things ready for the big day.

Welcome, Lesli! We're so glad you and Rick and "the Weasels" are here.


"Let's Get the Place Spruced Up" Day

~ Thurs. Mar 21st starting at 9 am

BUILDING DEDICATION SERVICE

Please Join Us
in Celebration and Joy

Sunday, March 24, 2013
3:00 p.m.
in our Chapel

 The People of
Red River Unitarian Universalist Church
515 North Burnett Ave
Denison, Texas

RSVP to dedications@rruu.org

Calling EVERYONE! Hello??? Can you hear me now?

OK, now that we've got your attention - Thursday, Mar 21st is the "Let's Get The Place Spruced Up" for our dedication.

There is something for everyone to do - from general cleaning to yard work, to arranging chairs, moving things (like the piano - now that's going to be a chore!)

Come any time after 9 am - stay as long as you can and know that it is a lot more fun working together.

"Reception Food Needs

While those organizing the reception have things pretty well in hand, please check the e-news next Wednesday to see if there is anything else that is needed.

Adult Forum for March ~ *Building Your Own Theology or Cultural Literacy for Religion: Everything the Well-Educated Person Should Know*, a video series by Mark Berkson.

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

March 3

The first lecture in a video series concerning religion. This Sunday's lecture concerns whether religion has to include belief in a God or gods? What provides coherence to religious traditions given their remarkable diversity? We will examine a number of ways of defining religion, its strengths, weaknesses and find that religious traditions are living, changing things; that they are not so much characterized by agreement among members as by commonly held commitments to certain scriptures, practices, and figures, even as members debate about what these mean.

March 10

Video lecture #2 examines important themes that nearly all religions address: the concept of divinity or

ultimate reality, scripture, ritual, understandings of good and evil, and the idea of salvation or liberation.

March 17

Building Your Own Theology: "Truth and Authority....What Do We Know For Sure?" It will include religious truths and why we believe them and theological symbols. Participants should take the Belief-o-Matic quiz (click [here](#)) and "What's Your Spiritual Type" survey (click [here](#)) before Sunday.

March 24 - No Forum This Morning, come to the Building Dedication Service @ 3 p.m.

March 31

Video lecture #3 begins the exploration of Hinduism, one of the world's oldest religious traditions. We will discuss its ancient scriptures, such as the Upanishads and the Bhagavad Gita, and we will review the dazzling panoply of Hindu gods, such as Vishnu and Shiva. We will visit their ancient temples and join in their colorful festivals (by video).



Appreciation Dinner ~ Marla Loturco is honored with the Bruce Cameron Distinguished Service Award

Last year the Board of Trustees created the Bruce Cameron Distinguished Service Award to be given to a member whose volunteer work has been exceptional. While the Award is not necessarily an annual event, the Award committee voted unanimously to honor Marla Loturco for her ongoing willingness to be of service wherever needed. She served as Board president three years; is currently on the Worship and Nominating Team, helps to run the Sound System, is quietly keeping the historical records current, provides refreshments, attends almost all church social functions and is one of the "go-to" people if you want something done. Beyond our congregation Marla serves as Secretary for the North Texas Unitarian Universalists.

No one is more deserving than Marla! Two years ago she was nominated and won the Marty Robinson Award for Volunteerism .

We are fortunate, lucky and yes, even blessed that Marla finds her spiritual life fulfilled at Red River!

Congratulations, Marla!

P.S Want to know about Marla's friend in the photo? Best to ask her!!

Financial Update the church treasurer

In the month of January we had income of \$2,872 from general operations. After operations expense of \$2,132, we had a net income from operations of \$740. However, this does not include the cash payment of principal on our loan.

On a year to date basis, our net income from general operations covers our year to date principal payments. That is a big step forward and is much better than our budget. The improvement is primarily due to lower expenses than budgeted and to additional donations. For the year to date period of July through January 2013, we had net income of \$3,744 from operations on the income statement.

In addition, we had (\$3,161) for the cash payment of principal on our loan, income of \$1,214 for renovations, (\$1,500) for the board retreat that was covered by a grant from last year, and \$9,000 received for two new NTAUUS grants for a RE program and worship.

As of the end of January 2013, we had cash of \$47,737 and debt of \$40,305. The cash amount includes \$4,331 reserved for renovations and \$11,050 reserved for grants for the RE program, worship and board retreats. We also had a \$4,478 reduction in debt in January thanks to some very generous members.

In January we contributed \$122 to the Grayson County Shelter from the Share the Plate program. Year to date, we have contributed \$367 to the Grayson County Shelter and \$200 to the Earth Day festival.

Carole Harner, Treasurer

New Member Ceremony ~ Mar 31

Our next New Member Ceremony will be on Easter Sunday, Mar 31st when we will welcome several among us who have signed the book.

Membership in the free church tradition is open to all who wish to call Red River UU Church your spiritual home. Membership does not require any profession of faith. The church expects those who join to want to be here, to offer their time and talents; to make a financial commitment as one is able, to attend church often and to enjoy being part of the community.

If you have been pondering joining the congregation and would like to be among those welcomed on Easter, please speak with any board member

Board Bits ~ From the February 15, 2013 board meetings.

At its February meeting, the board approved the purchase of two additional speakers (\$500) from the worship grant RRUU received recently from NTAUUS, which will enhance our worship experience regardless of the way we arrange the chapel.

The worship team continues to plan events for our dedication on March 24. The team will keep people "in the loop," so that everyone will be involved in the ceremony. All of our members have given much in terms of hours and/or money over the past couple of years to make our new home possible, and we need to recognize all these contributions when we dedicate our building.

The board has scheduled a spring all-church workshop on Saturday, April 6, 2013, from 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Mary Sue Foster, who led the board's retreat last July, will be facilitator. We will discuss our church goals for the future and plan strategies to get there. Please plan to attend! We need everyone's ideas.

The Nominating Committee and the Stewardship Committee will be contacting church members during the next few weeks. Please consider carefully (and generously) what contributions you can make to RRUU in the coming year, which will begin July 1.

Elbert

The Board has scheduled a Spring All-Church Workshop for Sat. April 6th from 10 - 12:30, with lunch provided. Everyone is invited to come plan goals for the future.

Church Audit ~ We Passed!!

The church by-laws provide for an informal audit of church records each year (informal in that, instead of engaging an outside CPA to do a full-blown audit--which would cost thousands of dollars and which the congregation had previously agreed isn't necessary for our small church--a church member other than the treasurer spot-checks deposits and checks from the treasurer's daily detail against bank statements, and also spot-checks items from the treasurer's daily detail against the monthly Profit and Loss Statement.

This audit requirement was inadvertently overlooked for the years 2009-2011, but a belated audit has now been conducted by current Finance Committee Chair Dan Althoff and former Finance Committee Chair Marion Hill. Although minor inconsistencies were noted in the recording of a few figures, they found, as expected, no major discrepancies or evidence of any wrongdoing on the part of any who acted as treasurer during any of the years 2009-2011.

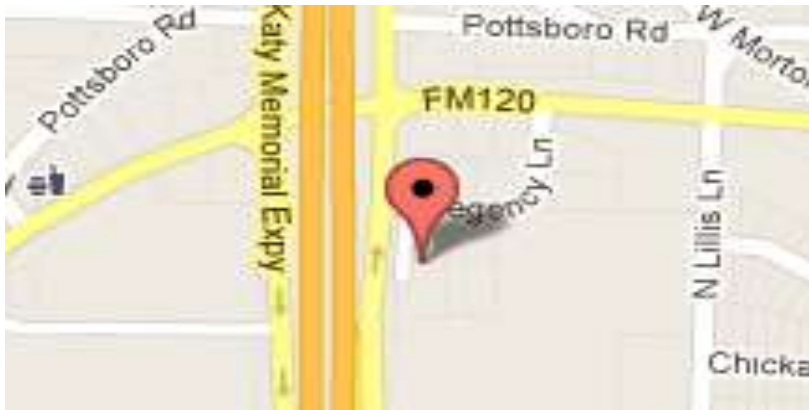
Respectfully submitted,
Marion Hill

Out To Lunch ~ March 17th



The March "Out To Lunch" Sunday will be on the 17th and we're heading to The North Rig (Morton Street @ Hwy 75). While the restaurant tell us they can't reserve a private room, they assure us we'll all fit in (but maybe not at one big table).

The restaurant has a wide selection of food choices and is reasonably priced. Everyone is most welcome to come and break bread together. Last month 21 RRUU'ers enjoyed lunch together!



Birthdays in March

Mar 12 - Jan Fletcher
Mar 14 - Marilyn Alexander
and - Faye Shadrick
Mar 19 - Carole Harner
Mar 21 - William Fridley
Mar 22 - Elbert Hill



Want a Piano?

The piano in the Chapel has been usurped by the electronic keyboard and is no longer needed. Want it? Make a donation to the church and take it away. Simple as that. Speak with anyone on the Worship Team for details.

Movable Feast

Movable Feast will be doing a restaurant meal on March 7 at 6:00 p.m., at the Blue Door in Sherman. For any of you who may not have been there previously, the address is 219 N. Travis St. (near the courthouse square). BD serves a nice assortment of food, reasonably priced, and diners may bring wine if they wish. Please get back to us by this Friday, March 1, to indicate whether you'll be coming or not. (Sorry for the late notice--time snuck up on us this time.) Click [here](#) to reply.

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: *Marilyn*

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

All Church Workshop ~ April 6th



A special morning workshop (10 - 12:30) with UU Consultant Mary Sue Foster who will help us focus on ways we can enhance our outreach; enrich our worship and explore ways to grow. Lunch will be provided.

The best way to know what we want to do is to ask! Mary Sue Foster is a graduate of Starr King School for the Ministry and will assist us in various paths for our future - bright as it is now - so it can continue to shine and expand!

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 go to The Blue Door restaurant in Sherman on March 7th. Details on Page 6. Speak with the facilitators: [Elbert & Marion Hill](#).

OMMMM... Meditation Group, Due to all the other celebrations March 31, Meditation will resume the last Sunday of April. Since we have refreshments after the service, we will not have pot luck. We'll discuss it and see if people would like to resume potluck. 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 March 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 North Rig Restaurant on March 17th. Email announcements@rruu.org if you have a restaurant suggestion.

RED RIVER

Unitarian Universalists

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