



# Red River Ramblings

May 2013  
Volume 10, Issue 5

## In this issue:

- Spring Meeting May 19th
- UUA's new approach to our annual contribution
- Earth Day Festival Volunteers
- Worship Workshop coming in June
- The kids need old keys, screws, nails, bolts!

### REMEMBER...

You can access the church calendar by clicking on the picture below.



## Four Sundays in May ~to uplift & to challenge

Sunday, May 5, 2013

### Laughter - EZ Access to Joy

Marla Loturco, *speaking*

On this recognized World Laughter Day we will take a look at the joy of laughter. Laughter opens you towards existence and all your senses function at their optimum. It is good for the soul, good for the body, and makes life worth living. Come join us in laughter. Marla Loturco is a Certified Laughter Leader and a member of our congregation.

Sunday, May 12, 2013

### A Loophole For The Soul

The Rev. Doug Strong, *preaching*

How is it that we experience the holy, the sacred, and the miracles which confront us every day and yet we're fearful to embrace them because to do so we must entertain the notion that we are religious? How often do we scoff at those who offer faith as explanation while wondering whether we are missing something that could deepen our tenderness to life? What is the place where the contest between religious and secular world views can reside in harmony? Where are the loopholes for the soul?

On this Mother's Day Sunday, the kids in R.E. have a special surprise for the congregation.

Adult Forum - 10  
Worship - 11:15  
Children's R.E. - 11:15  
Fellowship Gathering - 12:15

Sunday, May 19, 2013

### Fiery Tongues and Fighting Words

The Rev. Dr. Christine Tata, *preaching*

According to the story, on the day of Pentecost, the people spoke in all manner of tongues and everyone could understand everyone. In real life, there are deep misunderstandings even among speakers of the same language. In this discussion, Dr. Tata will examine some seemingly innocent but loaded words and how they are used to keep us unsettled and ineffective. Perhaps we can get beyond our visceral reactions and become more creative and compassionate in our communication.

### The Spring Congregational Meeting is today

Sunday, May 26, 2013

### "In Memoriam" ~ Music & Poetry of America

The Worship Team, *leading*

For this Memorial Day Sunday, we turn to two quotes from Ralph Waldo Emerson as the text for a special service in which we highlight - in music and poetry - a gathering to honor those now serving as well as those who have died in service to the nation.

- "Music takes us out of the actual and whispers to us dim secrets that startle our wonder as to who we are, and for what, whence, and whereto."
- "Good poetry could not have been otherwise written than it is. The first time you hear it, it sounds rather as if copied out of some invisible tablet in the Eternal mind than as if arbitrarily composed by the poet."

## Elbert's Epistle



Greetings. Many thanks to the Green Team for putting on another successful Earth Day Texoma program on April 20 in Sherman. And thanks to other RRUU members and friends for pitching in in various ways to make the day a success. This annual event spotlights our church

more than any other single thing that we do.

We have had several new members join our congregation recently: Lesli and Rick Dauenbaugh, Jana Norris, Robert and Lanan Shelton, and Terry Watson. Welcome! If you haven't met all these people yet, make it a point to do so in the near future. We are enriched by their presence and by their decision to join our church.

One of the most important events in our church year is coming up on May 19. At our spring congregational meeting, we will elect new officers to the board and to various committees. We will also discuss and adopt a budget for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. These are all important decisions for keeping our church going and for developing our programs to provide a richer experience of learning, caring and being in community.

See you in church, friends,  
Elbert

## Meet our newest Members



**Lanan and Robert Shelton** who grew up in Wichita Falls, attended the same high school and married while in college, Robert at North Texas State

University and Lanan at Cisco Jr. College. They have two sons and two grandsons and spent 38 years living in Austin. They moved to Denison three years ago after retiring - Lanan from a career in Arts and Crafts, Robert from 20 years working with Travis County Juvenile Probation services. Both are active in civic theater and in mosaic art. Lanan loves gardening and Robert loves motorcycling.



Sharing in the Vision, Casting your Vote

**DON'T FORGET...**

**...the spring congregational meeting  
on May 19!**

This is our church's main business meeting, where we will adopt a budget and vote on officers for the coming year.

To be eligible to vote, you must have been a member of RRUU for at least 30 days prior to the meeting, and you must have made a contribution of record within the past year and at least 30 days prior to the meeting. *(See requirements for voting in the Warrant on the next page. If you're unsure whether you are eligible to vote, check with our treasurer, [Carole Harner](#)).*

The congregational meeting will happen after worship service on May 19, with a brief time between the two for a potluck lunch.

Bring your favorite finger food to share.

**While only members  
may vote, the meeting is  
open to everyone who  
would like to attend.**

# Red River Unitarian Universalist Church



## THE WARRANT

RED RIVER UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
515 N. BURNETT STREET, DENISON, TX 75020

In accordance with the church bylaws, the Board of Trustees is hereby notifying the legal voters of Red River Unitarian Universalist Church in Denison TX to meet in the Chapel of the church on Sunday, the nineteenth day of May, 2013 at twelve-thirty-five o'clock in the afternoon and then and there to act on the following articles, viz:

1. To discuss and approve the October 21, 2012 Congregational Meeting Minutes
2. To discuss Annual Reports required by By-Laws
3. To nominate from the floor and vote on the Board of Trustees Elections
  - a. Vice-President
  - b. Secretary
  - c. Trustee
4. To nominate from the floor and vote on the Nominations Committee
5. To nominate from the floor and vote on the Committee on Ministry
6. To discuss and approve a 5-year plan for the church
7. To discuss and approve the Budget for the 2013-2014 year

The Bylaws state that the Requirement for Voting Membership is: Article V, Section 2  
*Individuals who have been members of the Church for 30 days or more and who have (as an individual or part of a family unit) made a contribution of record during the last 12 months, which must have occurred at least 30 days prior to the meeting, shall have the right to vote at all official Church meetings.*

The following documents are available on the church web site at this link: [www.ruuu.org](http://www.ruuu.org).

1. The Agenda
2. Minutes of October 21, 2012 Congregational Meeting
3. Annual Reports from President, Committee on Ministry, Membership Team
4. Annual Report from the Treasurer, including P&L and Balance Sheet
5. Proposed 5-year plan
6. Proposed Budget for the 2013-2014 Year
7. Nominations Slate
8. Proxy Ballot

The privilege of self governance within a congregation is a trusted and sacred tradition, one which many communities of faith do not have. Your participation is crucial and if you cannot attend please complete a proxy by either giving an open proxy to another voting member or giving/sending the directed proxy to [Doug Strong](#). Doug must receive your direct proxy before or at the beginning of the meeting.

From the Bylaws about Proxy: Article V - Section 8: Proxy  
*Nothing in these Bylaws is meant to prohibit voting by proxy. A voting member in attendance at a Congregational meeting will be allowed to vote by proxy on behalf of no more than two other voting members.*

Signed by: The Board of Trustees on May 2, 2013  
*Elbert Hill, Carolyn Cameron, Carole Harner, Doug Strong, and Paula Blackshear*

P.S.  
RSVP for childcare by May 13<sup>th</sup> to [Carolyn Cameron](#). We will be having a finger foods potluck for lunch.

## Board Bits ~ from the April 2013 Board of Trustees meeting

Most of the time during the April board meeting was spent on budget issues. Due to the generosity of many members, it looks as if we will finish the fiscal year 2012-2013 with a balanced budget! Our treasurer, Carole Harner, has been working diligently on the budget for 2013-2014, and the board approved that proposed budget for distribution to the congregation on May 4 and for discussion and voting on at the congregational meeting on May 19.

We also spent a good bit of time discussing the G.I.F.T. (Generously Investing For Tomorrow) program, which is a new way of calculating the dues that each church is assessed annually for UUA (Unitarian Universalist Association) and SWUUC (Southwestern UU Conference of the UUA).

Previously, the denomination's Fair Share program assessed each church a certain dollar figure per member, and RRUU has proudly paid our full assessment each year. (Not all churches have done so; a favorite way for some congregations to trim their budgets is cutting back on the amount they send to the UUA.) GIFT is a pilot program being tried in the Southern Region of the UUA, which would assess a church's dues as a percentage of its operating budget from the previous year (including capital expenditures).

The problem for RRUU is that in 2011-2012 we spent over \$70,000 in renovation costs on our building (one-time expenses that won't be repeat-

*Looking at the GIFT formula for RRUU, we would owe more than \$7,000 to the UUA.*

ed and thus not "normal" expenses). Our treasurer has spent considerable time analyzing the effects of the GIFT formula on RRUU and determined that we would owe more than \$7,000 to UUA and SWUUC if all our renovation expenses were included in the dues calculation—an amount that clearly we couldn't afford!

On Carole's recommendation, the board voted to exclude renovation expenses in figuring the amount RRUU would pay for dues to UUA and SWUUC, and she communicated with UUA about our decision and the basis for it. She convinced UUA that the amount voted by our board (\$2,224.36, based on our regular budget excluding renovations) is the proper amount for us to pay in the coming year. Thanks to Carole for all of her work in this area!

Other items discussed included the all-church workshop (to be facilitated by consultant MarySue Foster and postponed from the April date announced earlier, probably to a Sunday in September); and the possible installation of an elevator to make our entire building more accessible for all members and friends. Estimates by elevator companies we've consulted place the cost at over \$50,000, but we are looking into grants that might help with that expense.

Elbert

## The Adult Forum ~ Sunday mornings @ 10 AM

### May 5

Building Your Own Theology, pp. 20-22, continuation of "The Nature of Spirituality: What is Holy?" Discussion about a mock trip to Mars and a Values Survey.

### May 12

Video Lecture #6 (Cultural Literacy for Religion.....Great Courses). Unlike Hinduism, Buddhism began with a single man, Siddhartha Gautama, who because the Buddha around 2500 years ago. Lectures 6 and 7 look at his life and teaching, including the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism. We will see the various forms that Buddhism evolved into as it

traveled to different cultures, from Thailand to Tibet.

### May 19

Video Lecture #7 (Cultural Literacy for Religion...) A continuation of the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism and the evolution of Buddhism as it travels to different cultures.

### May 26

Video Lecture #8 (Cultural Literacy for Religion...). In Lectures 8-10 we will encounter the gods, ghosts, and ancestors of traditional Chinese religion: learn about qi and feng shui; examine the extraordinary influence of the Analects of Confucius with its emphasis on ritual, learning, and family, and explore the Daoist themes of harmony and nature in the enigmatic Daode Jing.



## Treasurer's Report

During March we had income of \$3,003 from general operations. After operations expense of \$2,188, we had a net income from operations of \$815.

We received donations of \$236 for renovations in March and spent \$319, primarily on the playground installation. We also spent \$208 from our worship grant for new sound speakers in the chapel.

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*We are doing much better than our budget thanks to everyone who has helped to keep expenses lower.*

On a year to date basis, our net income from general operations continues to cover our year to date principal payments. We are doing much better than our budget thanks to everyone who has helped to keep expenses lower than budgeted and/or made additional donations.

For the year to date period of July through March 2013, we had net income of \$5,029 from operations on the income statement. We also had expense of (\$3,161) for the cash payment of principal on our loan, net income of \$1,112 for renovations, expense of (\$1,500) for the board retreat that was covered by a grant from last year, and we have \$8,792 remaining from two new NTAUUS grants for RE and worship.

As of the end of March 2013, we had cash of \$48,711 and debt of \$40,305. The cash amount includes \$4,229 reserved for renovations and \$11,050 reserved for grants for the RE program, worship and board retreats.

In March we contributed \$89 to the Grayson County Shelter from the Share the Plate program.

Carole Harner, Treasurer

## Out To Lunch ~ Sun. May 26th



This month it is off to **De Happy Cajun Restaurant** in Pottsville. The place has had a face lift and a rejuvenated menu. They're at 50055 N

State Hwy 289, Pottsville · (903) 786-4909. (Go West on Morton Street and turn Right on Hwy 289.) We'll look for you around 12:45 on Sunday, May 26th.

## Birthdays in May

May 21 - Suzanne Durland

May 27 - Don Mathis

## Moveable Feast ~ Thurs. May 9

This month the Feasters will gather at the Alexander's ranch for dinner on Thursday, May 9th. at 6:00. Marilyn will heat up the smoker for barbecued spare ribs and brisket, along with sides and dessert. They will furnish iced tea, coffee and water. Feel free to bring your own wine, if you prefer. Weather permitting, we might even be able to eat outside. If you need directions, give the Alexanders a call at 580-283-3312.

## Meditation Group ~ Sun. May 26

Because Fellowship and Refreshments are served in the upper foyer, the Meditation Group will meet, from now on, in the Chapel starting at 12:45 PM on the last Sunday of each month.

Open to all who enjoy meditating, or simply sitting quietly for a period of time. If you've never tried meditating, come and give it a try. You may be surprised how wonderful it can be.



## Earth Day Festival ~ Thanks to all who helped to make it a success

Gil Alexander  
 Marilyn Alexander  
 Carole Harner  
 Elbert Hill  
 Marion Hill  
 Amy Hoffman-Shehan  
 Marla Loturco  
 Lura Moitozo  
 Jana Norris  
 Faye Shadrick  
 Maura Shehan  
 Lanan Shelton  
 Robert Shelton  
 Doug Strong  
 Kat Walston  
 Terry Watson



Gil & Marilyn selling Rain Barrels



Watching the singers on stage

While there were lots of other volunteers, we want to give a special thanks & appreciation to fellow RRUU-ers who came out to help in an assortment of different ways. We couldn't have done it without you.

You're the Best!



Lanan face painting

## The Rhetoric of Worship Workshop ~ June 14<sup>th</sup>



A 3-hour workshop coming June 14th (from 1 - 4 pm) with Rev. Dr. Christine Tata. Here's a peek at what we'll be studying. Open to all who wish to attend.

**Logos:** Worship begins with the *logos*, the word – the verbal message that you want to deliver. We'll talk about the best ways to choose and deliver those words, and how important it is that they are heard – and how very important the words are in our tradition. What message does the church want to give?

**Ethos:** Then we'll talk about the church's *ethos* – its attributes and reliability as a source of truth.

The ethos of an institution is displayed in the attention it pays to the necessary components of its work. If everything is sloppily done, the sound is bad, the hymns don't fit, the offering is lackluster, the missions are forgotten, and the worship unprepared, it belies the important message it is trying to convey in its logos. Here is where we will address all the technical details that are so important.

**Pathos:** Finally, once we have defined our logos, and we have created a reliable ethos, our worship can evoke *pathos* – it can encourage the movement of the human heart. This third session will talk about how vulnerable people can be when they come to church and the worship leader's responsibility to be generous and cautious and kind, in helping people move through the moments. The church needs to have a coherent message and a credible, competent framework, in order to make a safe space for feelings. We'll talk about the music, and the candles, and the meditation, and all the other ways in which the human heart responds to worship at its best.

**Want to attend? The worship is free, so is the workshop! Sign up [here](#).**

## Upcoming UU Events We Can Attend ~



# Forming a Pastoral Care Presence in Your Congregation

Saturday, May 11 • 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

FREE - INCLUDES LUNCH GENEROUSLY PROVIDED BY NTUUC

## CAREGIVERS AND LEADERS IN YOUR CONGREGATION

Members of Horizon's Pastoral Caregivers team will present different aspects of pastoral care giving, including the differences between a social connection and a pastoral connection, listening skills and making a visit, expectations and boundaries, and forming a team.



**HORIZON**  
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Horizon Unitarian Universalist Church  
1641 W. Hebron Parkway  
Carrollton, TX 75010

**FOR RESERVATIONS CONTACT:**  
Marianna Seaton  
Director of Lay Ministry  
d1m@horizonuu.org

## Standing on the Side of Leadership

June 1, 2013 • First Unitarian, Dallas



**Peter Bowden**, Media & Ministry Consultant  
*Unitarian Universalism Unleashed*

**Rev. Dr. Terasa Cooley**  
UUA Director of Congregational Life  
*Congregations and Beyond*



Meet the Candidates for UUA Moderator  
**Tamara Payne-Alex & Jim Key**



**All this plus seventeen workshops!**

Opening Worship at 8:30 + Childcare available  
Youth & Young Adults Lunch in Raible Chapel  
[www.northtexasuu.org/leadershipconference](http://www.northtexasuu.org/leadershipconference)



Attending UU events are a great way to meet other UUs, and be in a roomful of kindred spirits!

Learn nifty stuff, have good food (for both the mind and the soul) and come away renewed and enriched.

Really! Give it a try. You'll be glad.

If you wish to attend one of these events click [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, Paula & 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*

## We need your screws ~ and nuts, bolts, nails, etc.

Lesli, our fantastic D.R.E., is asking for us all to look through the junk drawer and haul out unwanted **nails, screws, bolts, washers, keys, electric wire,** and other like goodies for a project she is planning to do with the kids. Bring your old junk umm - stuff - to church and leave it in the small box at the back of the Chapel.



We're all anxious to see what the end result will be!

## Chalice Circles/Interest Groups ~ for us all!

**GREEN TEAM**, an Environmental Action Circle is taking a well deserved break after another successful Earth Day Festival. Facilitator: [Amy Hoffman-Shehan](#).

**MOVEABLE FEAST**, a Cooking and/or Eating Circle will go to the Alexanders' ranch on May 9th. Details on Page 5. Speak with the facilitators: [Elbert & Marion Hill](#).

**OMMMM... Meditation Group**, Meditation meets the last Sunday of each month @12:45 in the Chapel. Open to all who wish to learn more about meditation and to participate in meditating. Facilitator: [Paula Blackshear](#).

**BOOKED FOR LUNCH**, an informal book discussion group that is taking the summer off so we can all enjoy hours of leisure reading.

**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. See page 6 for details. Email [announcements@rruu.org](mailto:announcements@rruu.org) if you have a restaurant suggestion.



**RED RIVER**

**Unitarian Universalists**

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