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# Red River Ramblings



February,  
2015  
Volume 12  
Issue 8

## Sunday mornings ~ for your mind, body and soul

Sunday, February 1, 2015

Refreshments: H

### End The New Jim Crow

The Rev. Dr. Marlin Lavanhar, *(on video)*

One link between Ferguson and the New Jim Crow is the high and disproportionate rates of incarceration of black and brown males that contributes to the image of such men as criminals and leads to tragedies, such as the killing of unarmed young people, like Trayvon Martin, Sean Bell, Oscar Grant, Amadou Diallo, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, and way too many others. If you are not familiar with the New Jim Crow and how this system works, this message explains it with facts and moral clarity. Help end the new Jim Crow!

Dr. Lavanhar is the senior minister at All Souls Church in Tulsa, the largest UU congregation\* in the nation (with 2,950 members).

Refreshments: A-G

Sunday, February 8, 2015

### Life Passed Through the Fire of Thought

*The Second Sunrise Reflection*

The Rev. Dr. Don Fielding, *speaking*

Continuing to explore the thought and works of Chet Raymo, Don will bring you a list of books by Chet Raymo that may enrich your life, and he will describe at least one religious experience in his life. He will help us understand how the thought of such individuals as Martin Buber, Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, and Chet Raymo have made the world a more exciting and rewarding place: a place as Emerson described as *life passed through the fire of thought*.

Sunday, February 15, 2015

### A Vision Beyond Belief

The Rev. Doug Strong, *preaching*

We humans tends to claim unique domain over love, perhaps in appreciation to Chaucer who in 1381, called for a day of love:

*For this was on seynt Volantynys day  
When every byrd cometh there to chese his make  
(ie 'when every bird comes to choose his mate)*

While humans may be the sole species that sets aside one 24-hour period for the 'do all and be all' of love, scads of other creatures - great and small - show affection, care, devotion and even mate for life.

On this 634<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Chaucer's claim, we'll take a liberal religious look at some intriguing, familiar and perhaps surprising revelations about love.

Refreshments: Out to Lunch Bunch

Sunday, February 23, 2015

### Beyond Fight or Flight: Real Responses to the Real World

The Rev. Dr. Christine Tata, *preaching*

Are stress and distress our only settings? Is there any sane response to a world that can seem more out of control than ever before? Is anybody in charge around here? Dr. Tata draws upon the ancient Stoics again to reflect upon the ways we respond to the postmodern world. Spoiler alert: *Reader's Digest* was right. Laughter is the best medicine.

Refreshments: I-Z

Morning Meditation: 9 – 9:50

Adult Forum: 10-11

Worship: 11:15 – 12:15

Fellowship Gathering: 12:15

Red River Unitarian Universalist Church ♦ Denison, TX

*We are a sanctuary for religious liberals celebrating compassion, diversity and spiritual growth.*



### Dan's Dispatch

Some humorists have wryly observed that February, the shortest possible month of the year, was the one deliberately chosen to commemorate the African legacy in the United States

That is their way of hinting that African-Americans were getting, in yet another way, the short end of the stick. While that humor reflects a sad social history, the origins of Black History Month are a little more straightforward.

The U.S. Census Bureau News, published by the Department of Commerce, has a service called "Facts for Features." The January 21, 2015 FFF report on "Black (African-American) History Month" includes these points:

"To commemorate and celebrate the contributions to our nation made by people of African descent, American historian Carter G. Woodson established Black History Week. The first celebration occurred on Feb. 12, 1926. For many years, the second week of February was set aside for this celebration to coincide with the birthdays of abolitionist/editor Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, the week was

expanded into Black History Month. Each year, U.S. presidents proclaim February as National African-American History Month."

I am gratified that we, as Unitarian Universalists, can claim a prominent place in anti-racism work on many fronts. Although there has been undeniable progress made towards racial equality, recent events keep us aware that there remains much work yet to be done. The Unitarian Universalist Association's website is a wonderful resource and archive for multicultural awareness. I hope you will consider visiting the page at <http://www.uua.org/multiculturalism/index.shtml> to see the wealth of materials there.

As we are located in a multi-cultural area with white, African-American, and Hispanic neighbors, we are already immersed in a reality that calls us to interact with people who may be very unlike us. This may not always be easy or comfortable; I recognize that I myself am somewhat shy in this way. But if I do believe, as I claim to, in the "inherent worth and dignity" of every person, and in "justice, equity, and compassion" in human relations, then I must regularly challenge myself to act like it. Peace.

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## Annual Appreciation Dinner ~ Thursday, February 26,

*When eating bamboo sprouts,  
remember those who planted them.*

~ Chinese Proverb

*Silent gratitude  
isn't much use to anyone.*

~ G.B. Stern

*We should all be thankful for those  
people who rekindle our inner spirit."*

~ Albert Schweitzer

*The smallest thanks is always worth  
more than the effort it takes to give it.*

~ Unknown

Ours in a small congregation filled with people who work hard in a variety of ways to assure that we continue to be a sanctuary for religious liberals in Texoma. Each February we set aside one evening to come together and pat each other on the back; to give hugs; to shake hands; to tell one another how grateful we are for the work they do.

This year's dinner, **a pot luck affair**, starts at 6 pm and everyone is invited to come.

Members, Friends, Visitors alike! Come and enjoy an evening of appreciation – offered and accepted.

## Charitable Giving Roundtable

*Sharing Your Best Practices of Philanthropy*

**1:00-3:00 pm, February 7, 2015**

Room 305 on the St. Andrews (south) side of the building  
First Unitarian Church of Dallas, 4015 Normandy

**Kay Maxwell, CFP® and member of First Church, is doing research for development of a program for individuals, couples, and families. She wants to hear what you know of charitable giving: your knowledge of patterns, strategies, and where and how you learned them.**

**This is an open forum; there will be no solicitation of donations to NTUUC, nor promotion of professional services.**

### Those attending will have the opportunity to:

- † Learn strategies of charitable giving;
- † Develop questions for their financial advisor;
- † Ask a burning question about philanthropy or confirm an opinion from their advisor.

*Light refreshments will be provided.*

**While this is planned as a one-time event, Kay is willing to continue for a few sessions free of charge.**

**RSVP to Daniel Polk at [executive@ntuuc.org](mailto:executive@ntuuc.org) or 469-682-8870**



## Booked for Lunch ~ Feb 19th

This month, Booked for Lunch, our informal gathering of book lovers, will meet in the Barton Parlor on Thursday, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. It is a fine format to learn about books others found worthwhile and to share what you're reading. Snacks will be served. Do come!

## UUA wants our input

The UUA and Equal Access are surveying members of our faith who have difficulty reading traditional printed books. This might be due to blindness, impaired vision, dyslexia, the after-effects of stroke, difficulty holding a book, or other reasons. Specifically, we want to ascertain the degree of need for alternative formats to traditional printed books and how willing people would be to access these alternative formats. You can take the quick 3-minute survey [here](#).

## New Church Directory

Well, it didn't happen last month. Apologies. However the Communications Team isn't giving up. Soon (this month for sure) all members and active friends will receive an email asking you to verify (or edit) your contact information. Please reply quickly when your email arrives. We may yet meet our Valentine's Day deadline.



**Keynote: Rev. Dr. Rebecca Parker** recently retired president of Starr King School for Ministry She also spoke at the 2014 UU General Assembly in Rhode Island on *Sacred Activism: Heart-Opening Multi-religious Exercises for Liberation.*

[Watch](#) a PowerPoint show about the conference

[Read](#) about the conference



South West UU Women's Conference 2015  
San Marcos, Texas March 6-8, 2015

## 4 Red River Ramblings ~ February 2015

### Board Bits ~ from the January Board of Trustees meeting

At the January Board Meeting, we agreed to

- Present the current Behavioral Covenant for renewal at the October Congregational Meeting
- Hold a Yard Sale on May 16 as a spring fund-raising event to benefit the elevator fund
- Hold a wine-tasting as a fall fund-raising event to benefit the church endowment, date TBA
- Set April 16 as the date of our Board retreat, with thanks to the Alexander's for generously hosting
- Have Dan and Doug begin an inventory of

church contents

- Pay for a semester's worth of advertising in the Durant college newspaper

In other items, Gil and Marilyn Alexander have graciously arranged to have the church cleaned twice a month and have also donated a vacuum cleaner. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 19 at 2:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend!

### Treasurer's Report - for December 2014

In the month of December, we had income of \$2,219 from general operations. After operations expense of \$1770 for the month, we had a net income from operations of \$449.

In December, we had donations of \$265 for the endowment fund. We also received \$50 for the bicycle fund. We purchased ten seats with that donation.

For the year to date period of December 2014, we had net income of \$18,112 from operations and net expenses of \$13605. The total change in cash for the year to date period was a decrease of \$1395.

As of the end of December 2014, we had cash of \$48,383 and debt of \$33,326. The cash amount includes \$3,717 reserved for grants.

In December, we donated \$139 from the Share the Plate program to the Earth Day Festival.

Robert Shelton, *treasurer*

### Church Yard Sale ~ May 16<sup>th</sup>

The board voted to have another yard sale and Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> is the chosen day. Note to the weathers gods: Sun please, we got drenched last year!

The most important part of the sale is what is for sale, so start collecting, or sorting, or pitching – so we'll have massive amounts of stuff.

The purpose of the yard sale is three fold:

- It is a great way to become better known in the neighborhood
- It is a great way to clean out the clothes you no longer wear; to re-gift those presents you didn't want; to get rid of the stuff you've been holding on thinking "someday this will be handy"
- It is a great way to put some \$\$ into the church coffers

We all have *something* (or many somethings) we can donate to the yard sale. Start your collection now, during your "Spring Cleaning" days. You can always store your donations in the church garages.

### Out To Lunch ~ Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

Carole Harner sent in a recommendation for Out To Lunch. The place is called **El Tapatio Cafe and Cantina No Three** (not sure what the "no Three" signifies) at 2401 S. Austin Ave in Denison (903.416.9097). She writes: *It's very good. They have a vegetarian section on the menu. Also, lots of seafood options. I just had the Lunch Special #4 with a spinach enchilada and cheese quesadilla. The spinach enchilada was excellent!* We will gather on Sunday, Feb. 15 - @ 12:35. Y'all come on out!



## Leaders

### Board of Trustees

Dan Althoff, *president*  
 Gil Alexander, *vice president*  
 Robert Shelton, *Treasurer*  
 Doug Strong, *Secretary*  
 Paula Blackshear, *Trustee*  
 Elbert Hill, *Past President*

### Committee on Ministry:

Carole Harner, Gerry Shehan,  
 Peter Schulze

### Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum: *Gil*  
 Aesthetics Team:  
*Bruce, Joyce, Maura, Paula*  
 Building & Grounds: *Marilyn*  
 Communications: *Doug*  
 Chalice coordinator: *Open*  
 DRE: *Open*  
 Finance: *Open*  
 Good Times:  
*Carole, Marilyn & Marion*  
 Long Range Planning:  
*Amy, Gil, Marilyn*  
 Membership: *Marion*  
 Nominations: *Helen, L.D., Marla*  
 NTUUC Rep: *Marla*  
 Safe Congregation Panel: *Dan*  
 Social Action: *Gil*  
 Ways & Means: *Open*  
 Worship:  
*Dan, Doug, Faye, Marla*

## Little Free Library ~

It is official! Our Little Free Library is now registered with the Little Free Library Organization. There are now over 11,000 little free libraries in 52 countries and on average 25 books a month change hands from each library.



## UU Day at the Texas Legislature Lobby Day



The first-ever UU Day to The Tx UU Justice Ministry, selected Jan 20<sup>th</sup> (some months ago) as our day to meet with legislators. Alas, turns out that was the day the new governor was inaugurated. We never would have found parking, so the date was changed to Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. If you want to be part of the effort, you can get details [here](#).

## Chalice Circles / Interest Groups

**GREEN TEAM**, an Environmental Action Circle usually meets on Thursday evenings @ 7:00 PM. Next meeting Feb 12th at Amy Hoffman-Shehan's house. Facilitator: Amy Hoffman-Shehan.

**MOVEABLE FEAST**, a Cooking and/or Eating Circle will be meeting during the Appreciation Dinner on Feb 26th.

**BOOKED FOR LUNCH**, is an informal book discussion group which usually meets the second Thursday of the month at 1 p.m. in the Barton Parlor. The next meeting is Jan. 19 (due to board meeting change). Facilitator Carole Harner.

**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 Out to Lunch heads to El Tapatio Café & Catina in Denison (see page 5). Email **announce** [+suffix]\* if you have a restaurant

## Contact Us

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