

Red River Ramblings



April 2015
Volume 12
Issue 10

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YOU

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for the next
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April Sunday mornings ~more musings, more music

Sunday, April 5, 2015

Easter for the Non-Religious

Flutist Cornell Kinderknecht, *in concert*

Religious communities often disagree more than they agree - conflicting theologies, writings, beliefs ... the list goes on and on. One thing, however, seems to be present in many, if not all, gathered communities of faith: music. This Easter, like last year, we will celebrate with a special concert by flutist Cornell Kinderknecht. For those who cut church last Easter (fearing it would clash with your sense of being), here's your chance for redemption!

[Cornell's bio is on page 2.]

Refreshments: A-G

Sunday, April 12, 2015

Miracles

The Rev. Dr. Don Fielding, *speaking*

This morning will be the fourth and the last of my Sunrise Reflections; it has been an exploration of the thought and works of Chet Raymo. Raymo encourages us to examine two so-called 'miracles' - one a religious miracle, and the other a miracle in science - to see which we might actually consider to be the most miraculous. With Raymo's help I am using the Shroud of Turin as the religious miracle, and the flight of the juvenile Red Knots (a sandpiper-like bird) as the scientific one. Come and see if you agree with my conclusion. I end this Reflection with a piece of music that I personally consider to be the greatest secular hymn of our day-and-age - 'Take This Waltz'.

Refreshments: H

Sunday, April 19, 2015

Spring for the Non-Religious

The Worship Team + some friends

When people learn that Unitarian Universalists have a flower communion (a uniquely UU ritual), eyes roll, head shake and polite smiles appear but deep down lingers suspicion that UUs are trespassing on the sanctity of communion. Let them wonder. Flowers are life's gift to spring and on Sunday we shall gather at the river, fling upon the windows (if only we could) and rejoice that spring has arrived.

Special guest musicians along with some joyful songs and intriguing thoughts RRUU will officially welcome Spring.

Refreshments: Out to Lunch Bunch

Sunday, April 26, 2015

Keeping the Controversy Alive

The Rev. Doug Strong, *preaching*

There is nothing new about deceit and deception in the world. Advertisers intentionally misrepresent products. Media reports are biased. Politicians run negative ads. While differing perspectives are valuable tools for drawing personal conclusions, things turn sinister when people deliberately discredit facts. For fifty years a small group of individuals have successfully professed unfounded accusations about some of the most important issues of our time. Their goal is to create doubt, spread confusion and obfuscate facts. They have been appallingly successful. A sermon about debunking doubt.

Refreshments: I-Z

Morning Meditation: 9

Adult Forum: 10

Worship: 11:15

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

Spring is definitely here. The signs are inescapable. The birds are chasing each other and chirping and flirting shamelessly – it's almost enough to make a person blush!

The greening and wild growth of the grass, bushes, flowers, and trees simply will not be denied. Even I am moved to want to do something – and that's saying quite a bit, since I'm especially fond of quiet repose, which is often mistaken for laziness! Although I prefer to leave lawn care to the professionals, I do take matters into my own hands when it comes to the ritual of spring cleaning.

Spring cleaning conjures up images of throwing open the cupboards, closets, and windows... shaking, dusting, washing, ironing...sweeping, mopping, dusting...painting and

Unfortunately, the rules we have set out for us to welcome children are so complex, it is almost impossible for us to abide by them.

repairing...trying on the old clothes to see if they still fit...making decisions to keep or discard what we find, and being surprised at rediscovering the things we had forgotten about for so long.

This month, the Board of Trustees will hold a retreat to work on some spring cleaning of our own. Since July of last year, I've become very familiar with the Bylaws and the Policies and Procedures that the congregation adopted some years ago. Those documents were produced at a time in our history when our membership was larger, and when more elaborate organizational structures seemed desirable. Since then, though, our membership has become smaller, but our documents have remained the same. The requirements we placed on ourselves for getting things done have become burdensome rather than helpful guides to achieving important goals.

For example, we are eager to make provisions for families who bring children with them to church on Sunday. Unfortunately, though, the rules we have set out for ourselves on how to welcome children are so complex and require so many people to carry out, that it is almost impossible for us to abide by them.

But they are still in place and they are still legally binding. But rules that legally "bind" us hands and feet and prevent us from being of service are not rules we need to keep. It's time to discard those things that no longer fit us. It's time to let go of things we no longer need. It's time to make room for growth. It's time for spring cleaning!

Meet Cornell

Cornell Kinderknecht is an award-winning world flutes and reeds recording artist, performer and instructor. He is an Indian Summer Music Awards winner and has twice been a finalist for Musician of the Year at the Texas Music Awards. He is a Great American Song Contest Top 5 Instrumental winner and a Native American Music Awards nominee. His "Dreamtime" album was an early-round contender in the 2015 Grammy Awards. Venues Cornell has performed include the prestigious Carnegie Hall, the magnificent amphitheater built into the 2000-foot red rock cliffs of Zion Canyon, the underground "Cave Without A Name," the Meyerson Symphony Center, and the AT&T Dallas Cowboys Stadium. His music has been heard in film, TV and advertising and is aired on radio throughout the US, Europe and Australia. In addition to his own recordings, Cornell's playing can be heard on numerous artists' CDs in multiple genres. He is a regular performer and presenter at music festivals around the US. You can learn more about Cornell Kinderknecht and his music at www.cornellk.com.



Board Bits

During the March 12th Board meeting, the Board discussed:

- Possibilities on how to proceed on children's activities on Sundays
- The condition of the facilities and priorities for improvements
- Leadership development experience at a new summer institute for small congregations (SCUULE) in Nauvoo, Alabama, May 31-June 5, similar to DBLE
- Requirements for reports and nominations in anticipation of the congregational meeting on Sunday, May 17
- The need to update church archives (via the Communications Team)
- The fundraising yard sale to be held on Saturday, May 16 (bring your items and leave them in Garage 4!)
- Details about the upcoming Board Retreat to be held on April 16th

Treasurer's Report

In the month of February, we had income of \$3/647 from general operations. After operations expense of \$2,876 for the month, we had a net income from operations of \$798.

In February, we received a grant of \$1,450 for internet service and a grant of \$1,020 for new microphones. We awarded \$500 to the Earth Day Celebration from a grant received last month and purchased the new microphones at a cost of \$960.

For the year to date period of February 2014, we had net income of \$5,784 from operations. The total change in cash for the year to date period was a \$5,463.

As of the end of February we had total cash of \$5,462. Our cash includes the restricted amount of \$5,143. Our unrestricted cash totals \$48,941 and our debt totals \$32,288.

In February, we donated \$81 from the Share the Plate program to the Earth Day Celebration.

Robert Shelton, Treasurer

RRUU Gets Wired!

We now have Wi-Fi throughout the building. Feel free to connect using any device. Speak with a board member for the password. Once it is in your device, you won't need it again (ain't technology a hoot!)

Booked for Lunch ~ April 9th



Thursday, April 9th is the next **Booked for Lunch** meeting. It is open to everyone who enjoy reading. We talk about what we've been reading, what we would like to read while having snacks.

Green Team meets on Apr 9th



In order to assure that every possible details have been covered, the Green Team will meet on Thur April 9th and again April 23rd at

Amy Hoffman-Shehan's home starting at 7 pm. The Earth Day Festival reaches the wider community and is our golden opportunity to let people know the importance of Learning Green (this year's general theme). Check out the 30 sec Ad [here](#) (or click on video image).

Harmony House Concert



On Saturday, April 18, 2015, 7:30-9:30 pm, the incomparable singer-songwriter, Chuck Pyle, from the front range of CO, will entertain guests with his songs of Western skies, of memorable places, and of humorous experiences mixed with some poignant truths about life and love. Chuck is renowned for his melodic tunes that make you feel like you are riding across the plains and for his fingers that ripple across the

acoustic guitar like a bubbling brook in springtime.

Every once in a while one encounters an artist whose very nature seems to capture a portion of the glorious and heartbreaking complexities of the human predicament and who also, possesses the gift to express that portion in a unique and compelling way. He is one of those rare artists.

~ Charles Young, Nashville Songwriters Assn
Santa Fe, NM

Make reservations by calling 903.583.2661

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In The Beginning ...

Each year, **Earth Day** -- April 22 -- marks the anniversary of what many consider the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970.

The height of hippie and flower-child culture in the United States, 1970 brought the death of Jimi Hendrix, the last Beatles album, and Simon & Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Water".

At the time, Americans were slurping leaded gas through massive V8 sedans. Industry belched out smoke and sludge with little fear of legal consequences or bad press. Air pollution was commonly accepted as the smell of prosperity. "Environment" was a word that appeared more often in spelling bees than on the evening news. Although mainstream America remained oblivious to environmental concerns, the stage had been set for change by the publication of Rachel Carson's New York Times bestseller *Silent Spring* in 1962. The book represented a watershed moment for the modern environmental movement, selling more than 500,000 copies in 24 countries and, up until that moment, more than any other person, Ms. Carson raised public awareness and concern for living organisms, the environment and public health.

Earth Day 1970 capitalized on the emerging consciousness, channeling the energy of the anti-war protest movement and putting environmental concerns front and center.

Our Earth Day Festival

The Texoma Earth Day Festival began in 2009. It was the creation of RRUU's Green Team and the Green Team has taken the lead throughout the years. The Festival probably would not happen if it weren't for the efforts of the Green Team. More than half of the congregation volunteers the day of the festival and members get the word out by distributing posters and flyers in the month leading up to the festival.

Our tiny congregation can be proud of this community outreach. We are an island of environmentally concerned individuals in a region not friendly to these ideas. The Texoma Earth Day Festival is a creative approach to educate and inspire people to develop a concern for environmental issues, challenges and solutions.

This year RRUU will have a booth at Earth Day to help people learn more about Unitarian Universalism.

It is not too late to volunteer at Earth Day. Speak with Carole Harner who is coordinating all volunteers.

There is something for everyone to do. Speak with Carole Harner and be a volunteer. Work an hour or all day.



The church ad for the Festival Program

**Texoma Earth Day Festival 2015
Apr 25th 8:30 ~ 5:00**



Images from the last six Earth Day Festivals



**Sherman Municipal Grounds
Rain or shine!**



Some Legal Stuff

The Spring Congregational Meeting will be May 17th at 12:35 PM. During the meeting we will listen to a report from the President; the Membership Team and the Board of Trustees.



We will approve the budget presented by the Board for fiscal 2015-2016 and we will election church leadership (Board of Trustees; Nominating Committee and Committee on Ministry).

Congregational meetings are democracy in action and while everyone may attend, only voting members may cast ballots. Voting members are those members who have made a “contribution of record” during the last 12 months. Such contributions may be financial or volunteering time.

Our bylaws require that one must have been a member 30 days prior to the meeting in order to vote. If you’ve been flirting with becoming a member of RRUU, you have to sign the membership book by April 16, 2015. Speak with Marion Hill, membership team leader, if you wish to become a member.

Out To Lunch~ Sun. April 19th

We’re returning to Fulbelli’s Restaurant for our April Out To Lunch. Fulbelli’s is located in the mezzanine of Kelly Square, a historically significant, 3-story building on the courthouse square in downtown Sherman. Built in the 1870s, the interiors showcase many original features and the restaurant oozes with ambiance. The food is good, too. Our reservation is for 12:40 pm.



Fulbelli’s Restaurant

More Stuff, Please!

The Yard Sale is May 16th and to make it a huge success more stuff is needed! Your stuff! During April, as you think about spring, flowers, putting in your garden and enjoying warm days - remember that soon it will be hot (so do live in Oklahoma and Texas, after all) and no one likes cleaning out the attic or shed or garage when the temperature is hovering at 100 degrees.

Plan, friends. Clean out those closets and cupboards while it is still cool. It will be more fun and more rewarding. You get newly reclaimed space to fill with new treasures and the church yard sale will be a success.

At one UU church yard sale, the church administrator was wandering through the sanctuary looking at all the bounty donated and spied two brass candle sticks. Knowing his wife adored brass he asked the volunteer pricing items, “How much?” They were expensive but he bought them on the spot, knowing they would be snapped up. He took them home proud that he had found something she would love. She did



love them, it turns out. She had loved them for 30 years and finally decided she was over loving them. So, she donated them to the yard sale!



It is time for another Bike Triage - to finish up repairing and rebuilding more bikes. From the original 100 bikes L.D. Clark picked up from “As Is” (Goodwill’s Reject Center), there remains enough parts for creating more bikes. While the date is still up in the air, this is a heads up so when you read the date in the e-news or Order of Things you can put it in your calendar.

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*
Finance: *Open*
Good Times:
Carole, Marilyn & Marion
Long Range Planning:
Amy, Gil, Marilyn
Membership: *Marion*
Nominations: *Helen, L.D., Marla*
NTUUC Rep: *Marla*
RE Team: *Carolyn, Dan, Tommi*
Safe Congregation Panel: *Dan*
Social Action: *Gil*
Ways & Means: *Open*
Worship:
Dan, Doug, Faye, Marla

Contact Us

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Phone: 903.231.3232

Web: www.ruuu.org

E-News: [announce\[+suffix\]*](mailto:announce[+suffix]*)

Facebook:

RedRiverUnitarianUniversalistChurch

***Church email suffix: @rruu.org**

Covenant of NTUUC Member Congregations.



NTUUC's Mission: NTUUC proclaims and promotes our covenant of liberal religion by empowering its member congregations through education, collaboration and funding. In support of this Mission, we, members of the North Texas Unitarian Universalist Congregations, affirm that:

- Member congregations cultivate mutual respect and support for each other and the work each is doing.
- Member congregations allocate resources to jointly promote and advance UUism in North Texas.
- Member congregations utilize responsibly the resources made available by NTUUC.
- Member congregations value and celebrate the differences, ideas, spirit and abilities of each congregation, mindful of differences in size and location as they affect our joint endeavors.

To work together, we will utilize the following guidelines:

- We choose at least one official lay representative (1 for each 500 members) to attend NTUUC meetings and activities.
- We promote NTUUC training events and workshops to our members.
- Individual congregations determine the process by which they select their official NTUUC representatives.
- We inform other congregations of activities that publicly promote our faith in North Texas.
- We commit people, time and other resources to accomplish NTUUC goals and encourage collaboration.
- NTUUC representatives communicate to their member churches' Boards of Trustees and members the plans and actions of NTUUC.
- We are transparent in our actions and commitments.
- We keep the commitments we make to NTUUC.

Chalice Circles / Interest Groups

GREEN TEAM, an Environmental Action Team. In April the team meets on Apr 9th and April 23rd @ 7 pm at Amy's home. Amy Hoffman-Shehan's house. Facilitator: Amy Hoffman-Shehan.

MOVEABLE FEAST, a Cooking and/or Eating Circle has not been decided for April.

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 April 9th. 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 Fulbelli's Restaurant in Sherman (see page 5). Email **announce** [+suffix]* if you have a restaurant suggestion.