



Red River Ramblings

The Monthly Newsletter of Red River Unitarian Universalist Church ♦ Denison TX ♦ Vol 20, No. 4 ♦ July 2018

Sunday July 1, 2018
Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

Letters and Songs of America

The Worship Team, *leading*

This morning we focus on our nation's 242nd birthday by offering a collection of short pieces that speak to our history, our love of country and its peoples. And to help tie the upcoming holiday to our religious tradition, all the selected readings will come from the pens of Unitarian Universalists. We'll also sing songs appropriate for honoring our nation's birthday.

While Americans have been marking July 4th as a holiday, it took 90 years before it became, by act of Congress, a holiday and another 65 years before Congress made it a paid federal holiday. Think you know everything about the holiday we hold on July 4th? Test your knowledge [here](#).



New UU Orientation – open to anyone wishing more information about our church. Meets 12:45-1:30 in the chapel.

Sunday, July 8, 2018
Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

A World Loving Religion

The Rev. Dr. Mark Davies, *preaching*

Sometimes religion becomes so focused on another world, a life after this one, that we fail to focus on bringing more love and justice into this world. A world loving religion helps us avoid the tragic mistake of creating hell on earth for heaven's sake.

Sunday, July 15, 2018
Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

Dark Alleys, Bright Aisles

The Venerable Tashi Nyima, *speaking*

We will also install our newly elected leadership.

This Sunday we welcome Buddhist monk Tashi Nyima to our free pulpit. Of his remarks, Tashi writes, *Buddhist monks - if they think of us at all - they imagine*

that we dwell in clouds of incense, smiling serenely, unperturbed, meditating on nothing. Intrigued? See you Sunday! Tashi's bio is elsewhere in this issue.

Sunday, July 22, 2018
Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

How to Explain Our Faith

The Rev. Aaron White, *preaching (video message)*

What are the basics of Unitarian Universalism, and how do we explain it to others?

This is an interesting sermon, especially for us, because Aaron explains his first visit *ever* to a UU congregation and guess where it was!! Correct. Here at Red River UU. Come hear his religious coming out story. His bio is on page 3.

Sunday, July 29, 2018
Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

What's With All Those Pronouns?

Rebecca Crystal and members of the LGBTQ Welcoming Committee, *speaking*

Our Association voted at GA 2018 to make our UU bylaws gender inclusive, replacing gender binary language "he or she" with the inclusive pronouns "they" throughout the bylaws. The Amendment reads, "to replace he/him/his and she/her hers with they/their/theirs."

The UUA Board agreed, "As our understanding of gender has evolved, it is necessary to modernize the language of the Bylaws to replace pronouns which limit gender with pronouns that allow for more inclusive interpretations of gender."

Come hear the history of our changing language. You may even discover your preferred pronouns.

- ♦ Meditation ~ 9 (*Meditation returns Jul 29*)
- ♦ Ault Forum ~ 10
- ♦ Morning Assembly ~ 11:15
- ♦ Conversations & Calories ~ 12:15

Jim's Jabber



This is my first newsletter entry as your Board of Trustee President. First of all I want to thank Helen for the BEE-utiful job that she did as well as Linda for her reign as VP and for all that she contributes to the church. Also a big thank you to Meagan as Secretary who unfortunately had to move away to seek employment.

For those of you that attended the June 24th service you may have noticed our new water cooler outside the chapel that the Board approved. Thanks to Marilyn Alexander for the suggestion.

Linn Cates, along with several volunteers, have installed the Monarch Waystation garden by planting appropriate plants in amongst our existing landscape. Thanks to all who helped.

The roof repairs are complete. Now we wait to see if the leak is stopped before we repair the water damage.

We are in the throes of building a better AV desk based on suggestions and wishes from the AV people. This redo is in its prototype phase so the AV people can see if it needs further tweaking or redo's. Once all the anticipated adjustments have been blessed, this project will be finished and polished..

Here are some highlights from our June 10th Board meeting:

- Appointed Linn Cates as VP to fulfil the unexpired term of Linda Tracy.
- Reestablished the Endowment Fund committee and appointed Doug Strong and Dick Powell as members. They are looking for an additional member so please contact them if you are interested.
- The Board also established a LongRange Planning Committee and appointed Marilyn Alexander and myself as members. This Committee is also looking for additional members so please contact one of us, if you are interested.

Our next board meeting is on July 17th. Board meetings are open to all who may wish to attend. We meet in the chapel.

Jim

Equipped for Action ~ Training for UU Volunteers (that's us, folks!)

Saturday, Aug 11

1st Unitarian Church, Dallas

8:30 – 4:15

Full Details [here](#) (be sure to scroll to the bottom of the page to see the day's schedule)

This gathering for renewal of energy, hope and connection for all volunteers, including teachers and greeters.

Worship Topics:

- Security: Intruder and Emergency Preparedness
- Spiritual Practices and Self Care
- Side with Love social action
- Small Group Ministries
- Youth Ministry.

One of our favorite visiting ministers, the Rev. Annie Foerster will kick off the day with a sermon she calls *Jumping In On Time!* She says, *In the sport of jump rope, "on time is the highest skill."*

Who wants to go? We can car pool. Speak with a board member if you're intrigued. The day is free. We must register by August 1st.

The Trash Troop

Thanks to Carole, Dick, Carol, Bruce, Carolyn, Linn, Joyce, Kelly, Ellie, David, Robert, Doug, and Adrain who all joined the 2018-2019 Trash Troop. If you want in, there is room for a couple more people to take a month (so no one would have to do it twice.) Tap/click [here](#) and send an email to the Troop saying you'll help.

Summer Salad Potluck Lunch



Our In 4 Lunch potluck, every 5th Sunday, will be on **Sunday, July 29th**. How about a theme for this potluck? SUMMER SALADS. Something easy to prepare that keeps the kitchen cool.

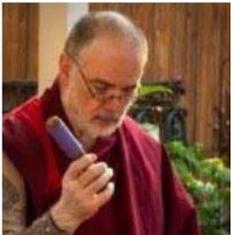
Define salad anyway you wish. Bring a dish to share (and if salad isn't your thing, of course you can bring whatever you wish.)

Our Website will change

When our church web site was first created, nearly twenty years ago, it was stunning, well done and forward thinking. Today, it is boring, difficult and very time-consuming to manage. It has served us well and it is time for it to retire.

The UUA, in partnership with WordPress, designed a modern, interactive web site for UU congregations that the church purchased. We have located a WordPress consultant who will be working with our webmaster, Marla Loturco to learn the ins and outs needed to make our new web site. Once completed, we will migrate to our new web address www.redriveruu.org and retire the rruu.org address. The goal is to finish the project during August.

Speaker Bio's



The Venerable Tashi Nyima is an ordained monk in the Jonang lineage of Vajrayana (Tibetan) Buddhism, and leads the Universal Compassion Buddhist Congregation, with Sanghas in Texas, Mexico, and

Argentina. For more than three decades, Lama Tashi has shared the Dharma in North and South America, Europe, and Asia.

Known for his directness, clarity of expression, and sense of humor, Lama Tashi shares the Dharma in fluent English and Spanish.



The Rev. Aaron White was born and raised in the DFW Metroplex. He received a B.A. in religion and theatre from Austin College in 2004. While at A.C., his theatre teacher invited him to church. He liked it and found his Unitarian Universalist faith because of that off-the-cuff comment a teach told him.

After college he studied abroad in Scotland and England, and earned his Master of Divinity from Harvard Divinity School in 2007.

After returning home to serve congregations in Texas, he was called to serve as Associate Minister at First Unitarian Church of Dallas in May of 2009. Aaron heads the Worship and Public Presence Team

Friday Night Flicks ~ July 20



July, naturally, is the month we think about our nation which is why this month's movie selection is Steven Spielberg's thoughtful, insightful, and surprisingly funny chronicle of one of the *greatest American presidents*.

*"The film **Lincoln** doesn't take the "cradle to grave" route but instead focuses on Lincoln's efforts to pass the 13th Amendment. In doing so, Spielberg creates one of the best films about political process ever made, while also digging deep into the contradictions in Lincoln himself. As portrayed by Daniel Day-Lewis, it's a complex, fascinating portrayal of a man trying to do best by himself and his country, but who doesn't always have the right answers. The film is far deeper than a simple "that was nice" story, and is West Wing-esque in its compelling chronicle of the political process. In short, it's masterful, and it's absolutely top tier Spielberg."* – Adam Chitwood. **Friday, July 20 @ 6 pm.**

Comfy Seats, Two Screens and Free Popcorn!

See you there!

Treasurer's Report

In the month of May, we had total receipts of \$2,562.00, and total expenses of \$2,394.71, including \$122.00 Share the Plate donation to the Grayson County Shelter, leaving an excess of receipts over expenditures for the month of May of \$167.29.

As of May 31, 2018, we had \$2,856.94 available in checking, a total of \$71,860.58 in all savings accounts and a total of \$14,572.71 in Certificates of Deposit.

All bank accounts have been reconciled with no exceptions noted.

Dick Powell, *treasurer*

Social Action Update

Most of the Social Action work this month was done through our LGBTQIA Welcoming Congregation Meet Up group. A MeetUp is a website where anyone willing to pay the fee can offer a group and anyone who wants to join can. There are many different types – and a few up here in Texoma land. I started Texoma LGBTQIA Friends (<https://www.meetup.com/Texoma-LGBTIQA-Friends-Meetup/>) and we had our first MeetUp after church Sunday 6/24/18. About 12 people attended and we discussed what was of concern to us. We hope to meet once a month. This MeetUp is part of my social activism through our LGBTQIA Welcoming Congregation Committee. I am hoping people who need our liberal congregation will find us.

LGBTQIA Welcoming Congregation Committee will be providing the Sunday service on July 29 entitled, What's up with All those pronouns?. This is part of the expected work towards becoming a designated welcoming congregation. (<https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/program>) especially “Use words that encompass all genders rather than only two. For example, “people of all genders” instead of “women and men”; “children” instead of “boys and girls”; “siblings” or “kindred” instead of “brothers and sisters.”

You ask why? Come to the morning assembly on July 29!

Rebecca Crystal, *facilitator*

Help our Hosts

The feedback from people is that we, as a congregation, like the idea of having a special outreach to first time visitors. That's wonderful. We have, however, a slight snag – we need one or two more people to help. If we get two more volunteers, each person would do it less than once a month. Our three morning hosts would be thrilled to welcome your participation. Please get in touch with Marion Hill at mhill2015@att.net.



Board of Trustees ~ July 15

Our Board of Trustees will meet on **Sunday July 15 at 1 pm**, in the F. Church Library for their regular monthly meeting. Board meetings are open to all who wish to attend.

Worship Team ~ July 15

The Worship Team will also meet on **July 15th at 12:45** to start working on the 2019 Morning Assemblies schedule. All Sunday mornings for the remainder of 2018 have been scheduled. They'll meet in the chapel.

New Email Address

Want something to appear ...

-  In the **NEWSLETTER?**
-  In the newly named Wednesday **UPDATE)?**
-  In the **SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM?**
-  On the church **CALENDAR?**
-  Even updates for the church **DIRECTORY**

This is **the only** email to use:

news@redriveruu.org

Having all the items people want publicized in one email address, it reduces the chance I'll forget something because everything is in one spot.

Deadlines:

-  **Wednesday UPDATE** – Wed @ noon
-  **Newsletter** – Last Sat of each month (unless the first Sun of the next month is within a couple days, then it is a week earlier. Deadlines are always posted in the church calendar.
-  **Morning Program** – Fri @ noon

Your editor will love you eternally for understanding.

Among Ourselves

Our condolences to Chris & Kyle Grimes as they adjust to the loss of Chris's uncle Jamie Hoyt who dies on Jun 23rd from heart failure. He was 44 and reportedly in good health.

Our Read for July:

Summer Reading: Explore Unitarian Universalist History Through Novels

From Harvard Square Library, a digital library of Unitarian Universalist biographies, history, books, and media

While there are many Unitarian Universalist authors, not many novels take on explicitly Unitarian Universalist subject matter. Here are four exceptions—all highly readable pieces worthy of space on your beach blanket, and each with its own take on Unitarian Universalist history.

Unitarian Universalist author **Michelle Hueven's** *Jamesland* explores the lives of three troubled souls, all associated with the Morton Unitarian Universalist Church. There is Alice, a descendent of the famous (Unitarian) psychologist and pragmatic philosopher William James; Pete, a chef, and Helen, the minister of the church. Alice is questioning her sanity after waking in the middle of the night to the inexplicable presences of a pregnant deer and her great-aunt in her living room. Pete also struggles with mental health issues, and Helen is deeply stressed out by the expectations of her critical congregation. In exploring questions about the nature of reality and the shifting boundaries between religious experience and mental pathology, the novel also serves as an extended treatment of the questions raised by William James himself. [Read more about William James here.](#)

May Sarton's *The Magnificent Spinster*. A memorial service at a Unitarian church inspires Cam, the narrator, to write the history of her deceased friend Jane's life. After graduating from Vassar, she devoted herself to humanitarian work (including a stint volunteering with the Unitarian Service Committee). The early part of the novel, detailing Jane's summers on the family's private island, day picking berries, playing tennis, swimming in the ocean, and

performing amateur theatricals, comprise an almost fantasy-like descriptions of summer ease. But while this novel concerns women of privilege, its explicit message is that life is a blessing, an original gift, in whose debt we remain. Sarton grew up as a Unitarian, found great support Unitarian Universalist circles, especially after she was ostracized by others for coming out as lesbian. [Read more about May Sarton here.](#)

First published in Norwegian in 1887, **Drude Krog Janson's** *A Saloonkeeper's Daughter* was only recently released in English. This coming-of-age novel tells the story of Astrid Holm, forced by a family bankruptcy to abandon a comfortable life in Norway for a harsh new existence in Minneapolis. She struggles in both love and vocation until she finds her true calling as a Unitarian minister, and fulfills her longing for companionship with Helene



Nielsen, a selfless physician to poor immigrants. Famously, 19th century novels featuring strong women end with either the death or marriage of the heroine. This work concludes with Astrid's ordination! One of the real life historical figures we encounter in this work of fiction is the Rev. Jenkin Llyold Jones, who, just like in

real life, was a valuable ally to women in ministry. [Read more about Rev. Jones here](#) Read more about the real world of two pioneer Unitarian women ministers of the Midwest: [read about Mary Safford here](#), and [Rowena Morse Mann here](#).

Sena Jetter Naslund's *Ahab's Wife, Or, the Stargazer*, takes the ten meager sentences in Moby Dick devoted to Ahab's wife and fleshes them out into a riveting account of one woman's life in the rapidly changing 19th century. The fictional Una meets many of notables of the day, including Margaret Fuller and Maria Mitchell. Asking serious questions about human nature, loss, and resilience, she explores both Unitarianism and Universalism along the way. Read about [Margaret Fuller here](#), and [Maria Mitchell here](#).

Art credit: Albertus H. Baldwin (1865-1935) "Woman on a Beach" courtesy Metropolitan Museum of Art, public domain

Leaders

Board of Trustees

Jim Holmes, *President*
Linn Cates, *Vice President*
Dick Powell, *Treasurer*
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Committee on Ministry:

Dan Althoff, Marla Loturco,
Robert Shelton

Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum: *Jerry*
Building & Grounds: *Marilyn*
Caring Circle: *Kelly*
Communications: *Doug*
Endowment: *Dick, Doug*
Finance:
Long Range Planning: *Jim, Marilyn*
Membership: *Marion*
Nominations: *Amy, David, Lanan*
NTUUC Rep: *Marla*
RE Team: *Linn, Tommi*
Safe Congregation Panel: *Dan*
Social Action: *Rebecca*
Worship: *Chris, Doug, Marla, Rebecca, Robert, Tommi*

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Facebook: [RedRiverUnitarianUniversalistChurch](https://www.facebook.com/RedRiverUnitarianUniversalistChurch)

Our mobile App: 'RedRiverUU' free at the [Apps Store](#) & [Google Play](#).

Church Calendar [here](#)

July Birthdays

July 10 David Dyer
July 13 Linn Cates
July 14 Robert Shelton
July 18 Scott Bowie

Were you born in July? If so, your birth date (not year) is not in the church database. Send your birth date to news@redriveruu.org

Chalice Circles & Interest Groups

Church activities are open to everyone. Contact the facilitator if you wish more information.

BOOKED FOR LUNCH ~ an informal monthly gathering for those who love to read and enjoy hearing about what others are reading. The group meets September - July on the 2nd Friday at 1 pm. They meet in the Emerson Room. The group is on their annual summer hiatus. See y'all in September [Carole Harner](#), *facilitator*

EARTH DAY PLANNING COMMITTEE ~ the group is responsible for the creation, each year, of the Texoma Earth Day Festival. All who enjoy planning a large-scale community event are invited to learn more. During the Festival many church members and friends volunteer to help. Look for the committee to reconvene later in the year. [Amy Hoffman-Shehan](#), *facilitator*

FRIDAY NIGHT FLICKS ~ a replay of an old idea to see if it flies. The 3rd Friday of the month @ 6 pm, a movie on the screens in the chapel for all who want to come. Comfy chairs, nice surroundings - even free popcorn! The July selection, in honor of Independence Day is "Lincoln". (2:29 Hr. film, sunset isn't until 8:35 pm) [Doug Strong](#), *ersatz facilitator*

MOVEABLE FEAST ~ a culinary chalice circle of people who enjoy food, preparing, sharing, and enjoying. A very popular church group that welcomes newcomers. The Feasters meet monthly and may gather in someone's home, at a restaurant, or church. At press time, no final arrangements for July's feast. Check the Wednesday UPDATE for details. [Marion and Elbert Hill](#), *facilitators*

ZEN MEDITATION ~ on sabbatical until later in the year. HOWEVER, remember you can always join in the Sunday morning meditation starting a 9 am, in the chapel. Open to everyone.