



# Red River Ramblings

## Four Sunday Mornings ~11:15 in the chapel

### INSIDE:

- **New Meditation Group starting.**
- **David Roth Concert in OUR CHAPEL!**
- **New Leadership Elected at the Spring Congregational Meeting**

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Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>

### "More Things in Heaven and Earth: God, Shakespeare, and the Invention of the Human"

The Rev Dr. Christine Tata, preaching  
Carole Harner, worship associate

In a contest of creativity, who would win -- God or Shakespeare? Don't answer too quickly -- at least one scholar has credited William Shakespeare with the actual invention of humans as we know them. But did Shakespeare create a religious human? And if so, what kind of religion would Shakespeare's creation follow? The evidence is scarce but provocative. Against a backdrop of some of the finest poetry ever written, from both God and Shakespeare, Dr. Christine Tata attempts to illuminate the soul of the human being Shakespeare wrote into existence -- and perhaps shed light on our own souls' manuscripts, too.

Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>

### "Five Hundred Years of Injustice"

The Rev. Douglas Morgan Strong, preaching  
Faye Shadrick, worship associate

It was called the Doctrine of Christian Discovery. Pope Nicholas V issued the papal bull *Dum Diversas* on 18 June, 1452. It authorized Alfonso V of Portugal to *invade, search out, capture, vanquish, and subdue all Saracens (Muslims) and pagans whatsoever, and other enemies of Christ wheresoever placed and their kingdoms, possessions, and all movable and immovable goods whatsoever held and possessed by them and to reduce their persons to perpetual slavery and to convert them to his and their use and profit.*

The Doctrine of Discovery has had profoundly negative impacts on Indigenous Peoples for the last 500+ years. Governments and various organizations have used the Doctrine of Discovery to justify the taking lands, the extermination of people and cultures, and the breaking of agreements and treaties.

Next week at the UU General Assembly a vote will be taken for us to join The World Council of

churches, the Episcopal Church and the United Nations in fighting to repudiate the Doctrine of Christian Discovery.

Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>

### "A Heart Makes a Good Home for a Friend"

Ashley Earls,  
Grayson County Shelter Director, speaking  
Paula Blackshear, worship associate

"We are all longing to go home again, to a place half remembered, half envisioned.. " writes Starhawk. Last month we explored "The Third Place". There are those in our community who don't have a First Place - home. This morning we welcome Ashley Earls, who directs the county shelter located at the end of our street. Come meet our neighbor and learn some amazing things that the shelter does to help families in need.

Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup>

### The History of Written Language

Gil Alexander, speaking  
George Gravley, worship associate

As with most human endeavors, our ability to preserve our thoughts by inscribing them in some way is generally handed down from generation to generation. Writing, as we know it, varies from culture to culture and frequently involves an evolution of symbols that mimics changes in vocabulary and our understanding of the spoken language.

Most people have not given any thought to how or where written language began or how it has evolved over the millennia. This presentation will summarize some of the more important places, times and development of the process and evolution of writing. It will correlate a relationship between mankind and his population spread during and following the Pleistocene Epoch (Ice Age).

Gil Alexander is a geologist by training and received B.S. and M.S. degrees from East Texas State University with majors in Pre-law and Earth Science and studied for his Ph.D in geology at the University of Montana. He and his wife, Marilyn, founded the Montana Science Institute and were recipients of prestigious awards and grants. They are both members of RRUU.



## Manna from Marla

I want to tell you what happened at the Spring Congregation Meeting held on May 20th. The roll call taken, we had 20 people present (or with us via proxy).

Here's our new church leadership: **Elbert Hill** is the newly elected president of Red River Unitarian Universalist Church. He and his Vice President, **Carla Murphy**, Treasurer, **Carole Harner** will be taking office on July 1, 2012. **Joyce Peak** is the newly elected member of the Committee on Ministry. **Doug Strong** and **Faye Shadrick** were elected along with myself for the Nominations Committee.

Financially we aren't in as good a shape as we would like to be. After a lively discussion, the congregation voted to accept an unbalanced budget— and the board will continue to work at attempting to balance it. We are still \$4,382 short in accomplishing that. If you want to see this budget – it is posted online at <http://www.ruuu.org/Governance/approvedbudget2012-2013.pdf>

We also spoke about what we want to accomplish for 2012-2013. Here are the approved goals:

1. Participation of members & friends –
  - attendance to average 34 by December 1, 2012
  - attendance to average 39 by June 2013
2. Support – financial – fundraisers & pledges

- Two new fundraisers to collect money outside our church family by June 2013

3. Communication – needs of the congregation communicated to board & committees.
4. Growth – 5 net new members and 5 net new friends by June 2013
5. Increase number of small chalice circles / interest groups by 4.
6. Increase the number of groups using our building by 3 of social justice or revenue producing nature.
7. Find 3 ways to participate in broader outreach in the community.
8. Establish info structure to support our membership drive

They are posted on our church website at:

<http://www.ruuu.org/Governance/approvedgoals2012-2013.pdf>

In this, my last letter, I want to say “warmest thanks” to all who have helped my term as president to be successful. As I reflect back on the three years it is amazing to me the journey we have taken together. As you may know, I had not been inside a church - any church (except for weddings or funerals) in over 40 years. I came and stayed because of the warmth and loving care people here exhibit. You can imagine what a surprise and how scary it was to end up president. I'd never been president of anything except my own business.

I could not have done the job without the support, guidance, suggestions, ideas and work from everyone. I leave the presidency feeling good about who we are as a

community. I am excited about the new leadership and know if you are as involved and supportive to Elbert and the board as you have been with me - we're going to do wondrous things!

Never having chaired a meeting, these three years have taught much about running meetings, interacting with people, delegating, what helps a church be successful, how to begin change and allowing things to be as they are. You made me a better, more prepared leader.

In my spiritual life I have learned more about healing, forgiving, loving, caring, and accepting things as they are than I thought possible. I have become more successful in dealing with others and have worked very hard to learn from my mistakes and emerge from this experience a better person. I do, however, know that patience is still elusive!

In the coming year I have promised your new president that I will help him as he requests. As Past President I will still be an ex-officio member of the board for the next two years.

Our journey continues – I urge you to become as active as your time permits. No, I urge you to become *more* active than your time permits. If nothing else, I know that we all have time for those things which are most important for us. In order to say viable and vital any organization must grow and participation is the key. Don't be shy, speak up and tell the new board you want to become more involved in your church! The experience is priceless, the joy abounding and the community becomes richer because of it.

With deep appreciation to you all,

Marla

## Board Bits ~ From the May 15<sup>th</sup> Board of Trustees meeting

The board meeting was held on May 15, 2012. All board members were in attendance. Carole Harner attended as appointed Vice President for the remaining two months of Don Durland's term. Don resigned with his return to Oregon. In addition to normal board business the following topics were covered.

- The next three sections of the Policies & Procedures Manual were reviewed. These included Membership, Social Justice and Long Range Planning.
- Carole Harner gave a presentation on how to read Financial Reports..

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*“Three sections of the Policies & Procedures Manual - Membership; Social Justice; Long Range Planning were reviewed at our meeting.”*

- Last minute plans were made for the May 20, 2012 Congregational Meeting.
- Disruptive Persons Policy was discussed with recommendations made by the Committee on Ministry.

The next board meeting is June 14, 2012, starting at 1:45 p.m. Board meetings are open to all, if you wish to be on the agenda please contact a board member. Deadline for the agenda and reports to the board is June 7th. Those wishing a few minutes during the “open mic” will want to be ready to speak around 2:00 pm.

## Adult Forum ~ Sundays mornings

### June 3:

Living in a spiritual environment in a cosmic reality. Discussions of theology and world religions this Sunday are Unitarian Universalism, Unity Church and Congregational Church.

Sources include *Building Your Own Theology, Vol. 1* by Richard Gilbert, and various internet sites. Adult Forum,

### June 10:

Living in a spiritual environment in a cosmic reality. Discussions of theology and world religions this Sunday are Christian and Fundamentalist Christian.

### June 17:

Living in a spiritual environment in a cosmic reality. Discussions of theology and world religions this Sunday are Islam, Atheism and Neo-Paganism.



### June 24:

Living in a spiritual environment in a cosmic reality. Discussions of theology and world religions this Sunday are Judaism, Wicca, Confucianism and Agnosticism.

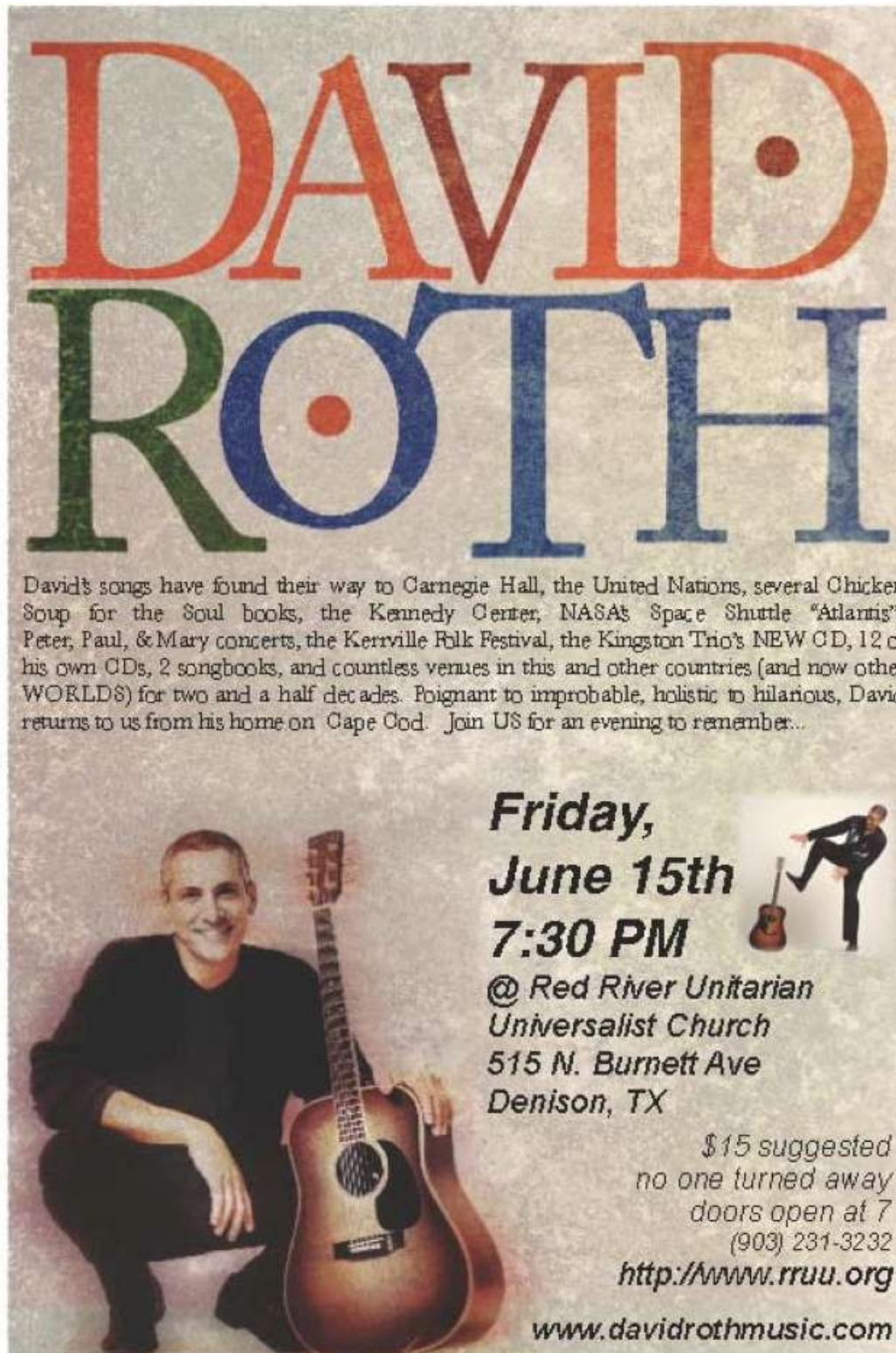
### July 1:

Living in a spiritual environment in a cosmic reality. Discussions of theology and world religions this Sunday are Buddhism, Hinduism, Baha'i and Jainism.

*If you are not receiving emails about the materials ahead of time for BYOT, please tell [Joyce Peak](#).*



**David Roth In Concert** ~ Friday, June 15th @ 7:30 p.m. in OUR church



**DAVID  
ROTH**

David's songs have found their way to Carnegie Hall, the United Nations, several Chicken Soup for the Soul books, the Kennedy Center, NASA's Space Shuttle "Atlantis", Peter, Paul, & Mary concerts, the Kerrville Folk Festival, the Kingston Trio's NEW CD, 12 of his own CDs, 2 songbooks, and countless venues in this and other countries (and now other WORLDS) for two and a half decades. Poignant to improbable, holistic to hilarious, David returns to us from his home on Cape Cod. Join US for an evening to remember...

**Friday,  
June 15th  
7:30 PM**

@ Red River Unitarian  
Universalist Church  
515 N. Burnett Ave  
Denison, TX

\$15 suggested  
no one turned away  
doors open at 7  
(903) 231-3232  
<http://www.ruu.org>  
[www.davidrothmusic.com](http://www.davidrothmusic.com)

Can you help with refreshments? If so, please contact Marla Loturco (email her [here](#)).

It would be excellent if we had an abundance of treats to sell during intermission. Wine anyone?

## Harmony House Concert ~ Bob Livingston ~ Sat. June 23<sup>rd</sup>

On Saturday, June 23, 2012, from 7:30-9:30 pm, Harmony House will feature singer and songwriter/storyteller extraordinaire, Bob Livingston. Bob's career in songwriting and in playing acoustic guitar have circled the globe. From his early beginnings in Lubbock, Texas to the shores of Vietnam & India, Bob brings his unique talent of helping unite us all through music. In July 2011, he was awarded the Best Album of the Year, "Gypsy Alibi", arranged and produced by Lloyd Maines, by the Texas Music Awards. Chris Gage was awarded Musician of the Year for playing on this album. All three of these outstanding musicians now reside in Austin.

For more about Bob Livingston and his colorful, cultural contributions to music, go to [www.texasmusic.org](http://www.texasmusic.org).

To make reservations for Livingston's show at Harmony House, please call 903/583-2661, leaving your contact information and how many seats are desired. The suggested donation is \$15 per person with all proceeds going to the artist.

To prepay, please make check to Bob Livingston and mail to Faye Wedell; P.O. Box 812; Bonham, TX 75418, to be received by June 18th. Refunds will be made for any cancellations made before June 20th. Guests may also pay at the door. However, if you make a reservation, you will be



expected to remit, even if you do not show up. Seating is limited to 55 persons. A waiting list will be kept in case of cancellations.

## Meditation Group ~

our newest Interest Group



Our newly formed meditation group plans to the Adult Forum room the last Sunday of each month at 12:30 pm. Those staying for meditation are invited

to participate in a pot luck afterward. The May meditation had 19 people and quite a lot stayed to eat!

We have CD meditations from Depak Chopra and from UCLA/MARC, drumming CDs, lots of drums, rain sticks, gourd rattles and members who are familiar with other types of meditation techniques. However, we do not plan to do all these things at every meeting. We will announce ahead of time which of the activities to expect as time gets closer for each meeting.

The group is led by Paula Blackshear and Joyce Peak.

## The New UU Program ~

Calling all new members and visitors!

The New UU program provides important tools to help our congregations welcome, orient, and integrate newcomers into our faith communities. We *are* a unique religion and this program addresses the needs of newcomers who want to know more about who we are and what we believe. It provides opportunities for members of our congregation to share with newcomers what it means to us to be a Unitarian Universalist. It gives newcomers a chance to examine their own personal stories in the light of our Unitarian Universalist tradition and heritage. It provides a chance for newcomers to the congregation and long-timers to connect. And beyond all of that - it is a great program.

Doug Strong and Marion Hill will co-lead the program and EVERYONE is invited to attend .. new members and newcomers are Strongly (no pun intended) to come. As is often the case it is a struggle to find two dates that fits everyone life. To ease that, all who want to attend will huddle after things on Sun. Jun 24th at the back of the chapel - WITH CALENDARS - and together we will find two dates that everyone can make. Got questions? Speak with Doug or Marion!



## Share The Plate ~ Sunday, June 10<sup>th</sup>

This month all cash contributions on June 10th, our regular "Share The Plate" Sunday will go to Camp Sweeney, a special camp for diabetic kids. Located in Whitesboro, it is a 3-week residential camp and teaches kids how to manage and cope with diabetic life skills. The camp is now in its 67th year.

When a child is diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, his or her life is changed forever. Insulin injections, pump site changes, blood-sugar tests, and a diet plan become a part of the daily routine for a child with diabetes. Unfortunately, while many children know what is necessary to stay in good control of their condition, they find it hard to live the kind of regimented lifestyle which will allow them to live long and healthy lives. At Camp Sweeney, we believe that simply teaching children about diabetes is just not enough. Our goal is that every child who attends our camp will not only learn about his or her condition, but will find the inner strength each day to do what it takes to live a healthy lifestyle.



## Won't You ~ recommend us *PLEEZE?*



This may look familiar - we mentioned last month how terrific it would be if members and friends of the congregation would go to the RRUU Facebook page and write a recommendation.

Nothing speaks louder than first person recommendations - that's the whole idea behind Ange's List! Come on, folks. We love the church, let's tell the world!

## Financial Update ~ the treasurer's report

RRUU's beautiful spring landscaping was totally funded by a generous donation to the renovation fund.

Cash contributions for 515 N. Burnett improvements this fiscal year were expected to total \$10,500. This figured has grown to \$26,100, and grateful thanks go out to all donors. Combined with the \$50,000 loan from the congregation, \$76,100 was raised for the church renovation. A little over \$3,100 remains in the fund.

Cash flow for May was excellent because one pledging unit paid a full year's commitment. This led to

a net income of approximately \$680.00. Utilities remain below budget as does child-care, worship and administration spending. At the end of May, CD's and savings totaled \$37,472.85. The checkbook balance was \$907.68.

May's Share-the-Plate recipient was the Texas Lions Camp which received \$65.00. It is a camp open to children with disabilities at no charge and is supported by Lions Clubs throughout the state of Texas.

Marie Bellman  
Treasurer

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*"Combined with the \$50K loan from the congregation, \$76,100 was raised for the church renovation."*

## Participate in General Assembly from Home ~ Very Comfy!

Here's the list of programs and meetings for this year's "Justice General Assembly" that you can watch live on your computer.

The following events should be available via live-streaming on UUA.org. All times are local, **Mountain Standard Time** which is TWO HOURS EARLIER than in Denison! (Remember Arizona does not switch to daylight savings time).

Wednesday, June 20, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.  
**Opening Celebration/Plenary I**

Thursday, June 21, 7:45 to 8:30 a.m.  
**Plenary II**

Thursday, June 21, 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.  
**Worship: May All Beings Be At Ease: On Co-creation**

Thursday, June 21, 8:00 to 9:30 p.m.  
**"Synergy Worship: The Call Across All Ages"**

Friday, June 22, 7:45 to 8:30 a.m.  
**Worshipping Together, Working Together for Social Justice**

Friday, June 22, 8:30 to 10:15 a.m.  
**Plenary III**

Friday, June 22, 10:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.  
**Candidates Forum**

Friday, June 22, 5:00 to 6:45 p.m.  
**Service of the Living Tradition**

Saturday, June 23, 7:45 to 8:30 a.m.  
**Worship: 50 Ways to Cross a Border**

Saturday, June 23, 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.  
**Plenary IV**

Saturday, June 23, 4:45 to 5:15 p.m.  
**Sing for Justice!**

Saturday, June 23, 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.  
**Ware Lecture**

Saturday, June 23, 7:00 to 7:45 p.m.  
**Saturday Evening Worship**

Sunday, June 24, 9:00 to 10:15 a.m.  
**Sunday Morning Worship**

Sunday, June 24, 2:15 to 6:00 p.m..  
**Plenary V**

Sunday, June 24, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.  
**Closing Celebration**



## Leadership

### Board of Trustees

Marla Loturco, *president*  
 Carole Harner, *vice president*  
 Marie Bellman, *Treasurer*  
 Carolyn Cameron, *Secretary*  
 Elbert Hill  
 Richard Newlin  
 Kat Walston

### Committee on Ministry:

Gerry Shehan  
 Peter Schulze

### Team Leaders:

Adult Forum: *Joyce Peak*  
 Building/Grounds: *Laura Shehan*  
 Communications: *Doug Strong*  
 Finance/Endowment: *Marion Hill*  
 Good Times: *George Gravley*  
 Membership: *Marion Hill*  
 Worship: *no single leader, duties are rotated among members*  
 Ways & Means: *open*

## RED RIVER Unitarian Universalists

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 Phone: 903.231.3232  
 Web: [www.rruu.org](http://www.rruu.org)  
 weekly E-News:  
[announcements@rruu.org](mailto:announcements@rruu.org)



## A reminder ~ about the church calendar & web site

The church calendar is always available on line. Each week's e-news has a link in the side bar, or you can click the image below.

The calendar shows activities for the next thirty days from today. If you click on most events, you can read details about that event.



If you copy this link:

<http://www.localendar.com/public/rruucalendar?style=D2>

into your smart phone, you can pull up the calendar anytime you want to check something.

Recently someone mentioned that they didn't realize that the church has a web site. We do. The address is easy to remember:

**rruu.org**

Check them both out!

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

**GREEN TEAM**, an Environmental Action Circle once a month. Contact [Amy Hoffman-Shehan](mailto:Amy.Hoffman@rruu.org)

**MEDITATION GROUP**, meets the last Sunday of each month. Facilitators are [Joyce Peak](mailto:Joyce.Peak@rruu.org) and Paula Blackshear

**MOVEABLE FEAST**, a Cooking and/or Eating Circle meets twice this month. Facilitators are [Elbert & Marion Hill](mailto:Elbert.Marion.Hill@rruu.org).