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Red River Ramblings



October,
2014
Volume 12
Issue 4

Sunday, October 5, 2014

The Right to be Forgotten

The Rev. Doug Strong, *preaching*

FDR, we learned from the PBS series, was never photographed in his wheel chair because the media respected his privacy and knowledge of the president being wheel chair bound would be unsettling to the public. Not today! Privacy is becoming archaic. Edward Snowden, whether you approved or not, taught us that we are woefully naive about our right to privacy. Now the European Court has ruled that Google has to delete links that violate a person's privacy (but not in the USA). On Sunday, a look at privacy, free speech, security and whether we deserve the legal right to be forgotten.

Refreshments: A-G

Sunday, October 12, 2014

A Sunday Assembly

Live Better, Help Often and Wonder More

Among the learning the worship team took from the Wide Awake Worship workshop is the encouragement to do things differently, sometimes. Today is one of those days. Be forewarned! A morning to experience our take on a movement that is becoming hugely popular in the UK - called THE Sunday Assembly (we didn't want to plagiarize their name) which bills itself as "a godless congregation that celebrates life." There will be some things that are familiar, many that will be different. Using music, video, singing and a little talking, we will enjoy a Sunday Assembly - UU style.

Refreshments: H

Sunday, October 19, 2014

Mother, Gladiator, Saint:

The Transformations of St. Perpetua.

Dr. Margaret Cotter-Lynch, *speaking*

We admire women who exhibit strength, intelligence, and independence of spirit, and it may be surprising to see the influences their writings had during their lives and what their works teach us today, several centuries later.

Dr. Cotter-Lynch is an associate professor in the Department of English, Humanities and Languages at Southeastern Oklahoma State University. Her research focuses on the representation of gender in early medieval writing of the lives of saints.

Refreshments: OTL Potluck

The Fall Congregational Meeting - 12:35 PM

Sunday, October 26, 2014

Pragmatism and Jazz

Dr. William L. Fridley, *speaking*

Pragmatism has been called the American philosophy and jazz the American music. Both were created by Americans, and both share characteristics that embody the American experience: attention to context, resistance to predetermined prescriptions, experimenting and improvising. I'll conclude with the question: Does pragmatism swing?

Refreshments: I-Z

Sunday Mornings

10:00 - Adult Forum

11:15 - Morning Worship

12:15 - Fellowship Gathering

Red River Unitarian Universalist Church ♦ Denison, TX

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



Dan's Dispatch

As I write this at the beginning of this new month of October, the promise of cooler days still lies ahead. Even before September had ended, my enthusiastic and eager neighbors had already set up a full lawn display of Halloween regalia in anticipation of the mild autumn we experience here in Texoma.

The holiday at the end of October brings to mind not just spooks, witches, and goblins, but it is also the time of year when many of us think of those who have gone before us. All Hallows' Eve—Halloween—was based in part on the Gaelic/Celtic festival of Samhain, and it was adopted into the ancient Christian church calendar. Coming on the eve of what the church now calls All Saints' Day (November 1) and then All Souls' Day (November 2), to honor the "faithful departed," the day has become an event for merry-making, pranking, and costume play for both children and even some adults.

The Mexican *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead) builds upon ancient Aztec rituals honoring the ancestors and has become increasingly visible in this part of the country. Underneath the Halloween fun, costumes, and candy, there is still, however dim, the reminder of our mortality

Whether we believe in an afterlife or not, I personally appreciate that time set aside in the broader culture, however informally, to hold close in our hearts and memory those loved ones no longer among us who helped shape who and what and how we are.

Our memories build a special bridge by Emily Mathews

*When loved ones have to part
To help us feel we're with them still
And soothe a grieving heart
They span the years and warm our lives
Preserving ties that bind
Our memories build a special bridge
And bring us peace of mind*

Fall Congregational Meeting ~ Sunday, Oct. 19th

Our church bylaws require that we hold two congregational meetings each church year. One in May, the other in October. Designed to conduct different business at each, the result is that neither tends to be very long. In May, we elect church leadership, approve a budget for the next year, listen to reports from the President, Treasurer, Committee on Ministry and the Membership team.

Our fall meeting is no less important because it lets us receive and talk about equally important areas of our congregational life - various committees, teams, interest groups and chalice circles. It also is a time when the congregation and the board can have an open discussion (think Town Hall meeting) about how we feel the church is doing, what hopes we may have, what suggestions we may wish to make, what problems we see and what solutions we may offer.

Prior to the meeting we will have a finger-food pot luck lunch and everyone is invited to bring a contribution for the food tables. While members are encouraged to attend, friends of the congregation are warmly invited to attend as well.

We inherit the right of free association and self governance from our New England roots and while we may, at times, groan at the need to attend, they are the core of the Free Church and it is our right and duty to participate.

Because we have no official votes to take at this meeting, there are no proxies which means in order to have a quorum, one must be present to be counter. Please come since the meeting cannot be held unless there is a quorum.

PS For this month only, members whose last name starts with "H" will bring refreshments on Oct 12, rather than on the third Sunday.

Treasurer's Report ~ For September 2014

In the month of August, we had income of \$2766.00 from general operations. After operations expense of \$3013.84 for the month, we had a net income from operations of (\$247.84)

In August, we had grant income and expense of \$600 for the Wide Awake Worship training. There was no renovation income or expense.

For the year to date period of August 2014, we had net income of \$6386.00 from operations, net expenses of \$5737.56. The total change in cash for the year to date period was a decrease of \$248.00.

As of the end of August 2014, we had cash of \$45,390 and debt of \$34,353. The cash amount includes \$2,690 reserved for grants. In August we donated \$64.00 from the Share the Plate program to the Earth Day Festival.

COMMON GROUND STREET CHOIR

"Building bridges between our divisions..."

Emma's Revolution threw down the gauntlet at their workshop at GA. They said we've lost the **peaceful nonviolent protests** of the 60s and 70s. Now, no one seems to know the songs – or sings at protests and marches. Now it's the three-word chant, which is confrontational.

They challenged congregations to start Revolutionary Street Choirs to show up at protests to **SING the message**, and teach the old songs and bring some new ones, too. Singing evokes emotion. It's a peaceful, nonviolent way to convey a message. And it can create magic.

Please help spread the word. You don't need to be a singer – just passionate! This is not intended to be a UU-only choir. Anyone who shares our vision is welcome to join!

Questions?

Call Anita Mills at (214) 450-4606 or email
anitam48@gmail.com

www.CommonGroundStreetChoir.org

Giving Life the
Shape of Justice

October dates to remember ...

MOVEABLE FEAST ~ Thurs. Oct 2 @ 6 PM

A reminder to those who signed up for the October Feast, it will be at the Cameron's home in Pottsville on Thursday, October 2nd starting at 6 pm.

WORSHIP TEAM ~ Tues. Oct 7 @ 2:25 pm

BOOKED FOR LUNCH ~ Thurs. Oct 9 @ 1 pm

After taking a break for the summer, it's time to find out what we've all been reading. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, October 9, at 1:00 at RRUU. Everyone is invited to come and join in the fun conversation. A snack will be provided.

Carole

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ~ Thurs. Oct 9 @ 2 pm

THE GREEN TEAM ~ Thurs. Oct 16 @ 7 PM

Will meet on Thursday evening, October 16 at 7:00 at Amy Hoffman-Shehan's house. Please email for directions.

THE FALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ~

Sun. Oct 19th @ 12:35 pm

WORSHIP TEAM ~ Wed. Oct 29 @ 4 pm

UUA News Alert

Our fellow Unitarian Universalists,

Climate change is the gravest danger facing humanity today. We are already experiencing its effects - rising sea levels, catastrophic storms, species extinction - but the potential effects of climate change are even more devastating. And while climate change affects all of us, its consequences will be felt most profoundly by the most impoverished and marginalized of the world's communities.



We cannot remain silent in the face of such a threat. [We are compelled to respond.](#)

A contingent from the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) participated in the People's Climate March in New York City on September 21st. There, an estimated 400,000, including 1,500 Unitarian Universalists, took to the streets to demand that the world's leaders address the crisis of climate change. The march was a stunning acknowledgment that something must be done - now.

In the face of this historic threat to our existence on the planet, the UUA and UUSC are joining with the Unitarian Universalist Ministry for Earth, the Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice, and the Unitarian Universalist Ministers' Association in [Commit2Respond, a religious response to the crisis of climate change](#). Commit2Respond is an initiative for climate justice awareness and action. We invite UUs and all people of faith and conscience to commit to respond in these three action areas:

- **Grow** the climate justice movement
- **Advance** the human rights of marginalized communities
- **Shift** to clean and renewable energy

Commit2Respond starts now. The period between World Water Day on March 22, 2015, and Earth Day on April 22 will focus on explicit commitments in the service of climate justice. But these efforts require our perseverance. We will continue this vital work through the United Nations Climate Change Conference in December 2015 and on through the 2017 UUA General Assembly.

Please spread the word about Commit2Respond through your congregations and invite your family and friends to join us as well. You can learn more about this initiative on the [Commit2Respond website](#). Commit2Respond invites everyone, regardless of religious affiliation or lack thereof, to join us in our commitment to respond to the dangers of climate change.

We saw the power of commitment among the hundreds of thousands who marched in New York City. Our respect for the interdependent web of all existence calls us to act. [Please join Commit2Respond now.](#)

In faith,



Rev. Pater Morales
President, UUA

Rev. Dr. Bill Schulz
President & CEO, UUSA

Board Bits ~ from the September Board of Trustees meeting

The September board of trustees meeting had a full agenda. Here are the highlights:

- Twenty-seven Shelter residents enjoyed dinner provided by 8 people in the congregation. RRUU provides the dinner 4 times a year.
- Natasha Crespo and Lauren Mainard donated a canopy tent for our Get Out The Vote project. Lanan and Robert Shelton, and Kat Walston are registrars. Anyone who wishes may register any Sunday after church.
- We are continuing a search for a new Director of Religious Education and are not having much success. Anyone who has suggestions about potential candidates is urged to speak with any

We are exploring the potential of renting a highway billboard to promote liberal religion & RRUU.

Fall Harvest 2014 Conference Oh, the Places You'll Go!

07-09 November, 2014

Glen Lake Camp and Retreat Center, Glen Rose, TX



Many words can be used to describe Unitarian Universalist congregations, but static is not one of them. Join us at "Fall Training 2014: Oh! The Places You'll Go!" to explore the dynamic nature of congregations and their leaders and gain tools for navigating these often choppy waters. Where will your congregation go next? Our tracks:

- Advanced Conflict Training with Connie Goodbread---invitation-only
FILLED
- Introduction to Leadership as a Spiritual Practice with Maggie Lovins
- Renaissance Module: Youth Ministry
- Walking the Twin Paths of Stewardship with Bill Clontz
- Young Adults and Allies with Elizabeth Mount
- March to Selma with Carrie Stewart and Lewis Morris
- Children's Evolution Camp with Sean Briscoe and Rachel Finley

For information, registration, lodging and early bird discounts (until Oct 17, click [here](#))

board member. A search is also ongoing to find someone who would be willing to work in the church nursery on Sundays.

- After the recent disruption during worship at a UU church in New Orleans, we discussed while unlikely, it would be helpful to have some information. Robert Shelton volunteered to be the point person should such a situation arise. He has, during his years as a juvenile probation worker, experience and training in deescalating of potentially aggressive situations. He said that most important thing is not to engage on an equal footing of aggression. Remain calm, speak calmly, force yourself not to get sucked into the person's aggressive behavior.
- We are exploring the potential of renting a highway billboard to promote liberal religion in general and RRUU specifically, being the only such congregation in Texoma.
- A renewal notice of our membership in the local NAACP chapter came to our attention. We discovered, after the meeting, that someone in our congregation paid for a lifetime membership for which we are very grateful. Does anyone know who did this?
- We spoke about the ongoing concern of the most appropriate manner in which to notify the congregation when a pastoral concern befalls a person or family within the congregation. Questions raised: do we need to get permission first? What happens when we don't know of an event until after the fact and someone is upset because nothing was said? What's the best way to share such news? We agreed that such announcements be placed in the very next publication (e-news or newsletter), that getting permission is important and urge everyone to let Gil Alexander know of pastoral concerns. We cannot help if we don't know.

Some wonderful person gave the church a lifetime membership to the Grayson NAACP chapter.



Schedule

Tours begin at 7:30 a.m. with a brief orientation at the Hagerman Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center meeting room. PFDs, paddles, bottled water, energy drinks, and light midday snacks will be distributed before going to the water's edge. Tours depart at the water's edge at 8:00 a.m. following the overview. Tours conclude with a brief summation at the Visitor Center, ending at 11:30.

Fall Schedule:

- Oct 18
- Nov 1
- Nov 15

To reserve your spot on one of these naturalist tours,
email Gerry Shehan.
Gerryshehan (at) yahoo.com

For more information,
call Gerry Shehan at
903.870.8187.



Gerry is an avid outdoorsman, a member of the Bluestem Master Naturalists of North Texas and founder of **Glide Through Nature**. Gerry is a Texas Dept. of Wildlife Certified Master Naturalist and holds a BA in Environmental Biology & a BS Nursing Master of Health Science

A Saturday Morning in Nature

Enjoy the tranquility of Hagerman Wildlife Refuge on the south edge of Lake Texoma while exploring this freshwater ecosystem by kayak. Master Naturalist, Gerry Shehan, will lead groups of up to 10 nature enthusiasts on four hour tours to enhance their personal voyage of discovery.



Cost:

\$65/person. This includes the guided tour, all tour equipment, a light midday snack, bottled water and energy drinks. Participants must be able-bodied. Please be on time. The tour will leave on time. Please recognize that these tours are limited to 10 people.



Hagerman Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center

Proceeds from these tours will go to further the goals and mission of the Red River Unitarian Universalist Church.

Leadership

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

Contact Us

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How to reach us:

Email: **info**[+ suffix]
 Phone: 903.231.3232
 Web: www.ruuu.org
 E-News: **announce**[+suffix]
 Facebook:
 RedRiverUnitarianUniversalistChurch

Camp Out invitation ~ from First UU Dallas

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE - Camping Weekend October 17-19, 2014

- **Where:** Beaver's Bend Oklahoma State Park - Group Camp 2
 Located 8 miles north of Broken Bow, OK
- **When:** Oct 17 (Friday Afternoon) – Oct 19 (Sunday Noon)
- **Who:** Everyone!
- **Accommodations:** Group Camp #2 contains 10 A-frame cabins (with heat/AC and electricity). Each cabin has 12 bunk beds with mattresses downstairs and 4 beds in a loft above. Bring your own bedding and pillow. Usually occupied by only 6 to 8 folks. You can also set up a tent, sleep in camper, van or motor home. There is a very nice lodge/mess hall with a well equipped kitchen and large central dining area. The restrooms/bathhouse has hot showers. Dining Hall has a stove, microwave, and walk in refrigerator.
- **Food:** Friday night meal will be chili with a vegetarian option. The two breakfasts will be light and healthy, yogurt, cereal, fruit and juice. The two lunches will have sandwich fixens, fruit and trail mix. Saturday evening meal will be communal with each person contributing a main course, appetizer, or desert. In addition, OA will provide coffee, tea, orange juice, and juices for Saturday morning, Saturday evening, and throughout the day on Saturday. If possible, same will be provided for Sunday morning as available.
- **Cost:** \$30 per person above 3 years paid at time of registration to cover the site fee, food, and food transport.
- **More Info:** email dallasuuoutdooradventures@gmail.com

Chalice Circles / Interest Groups

GREEN TEAM, an Environmental Action Circle usually meets on Thursday evenings @ 7:00 PM. Next meeting Oct 16 at Amy Hoffman-Shehan's house. Facilitator: Amy Hoffman-Shehan.

MOVEABLE FEAST, a Cooking and/or Eating Circle will be meeting on Oct 2 at the home of Bruce and Carolyn Cameron.

OMMMM... Meditation Group, meets the last Sunday of each month @12:35 in the Chapel. They are currently on a sabbatical. Open to all who wish to learn more about meditation and to participate in meditating. Facilitator: Paula Blackshear.

BOOKED FOR LUNCH, is an informal book discussion group meeting in the Barton Parlor on Thursday, Oct 9th @ 1 pm in the Emerson Room. 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 OTL will be an IN for lunch - a finger food potluck before the Fall congregational meeting, Oct 19th. Email **announce** [+suffix] if you have a restaurant suggestion.