



Red River Ramblings



February 2016
Volume 13
Issue 8

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Appreciation Dinner

Feb 18th



GOTV
(Get Out The Vote)
Needs You



SW UU Women's
Retreat

Feb 26-28th



Emergency
Response Training

Feb 28th



A Future for
The Adult Forum?



Meet our Newest
Members



Where spiritual curiosity and conscience connect

Sunday, February 7, 2016

You're Only Lonely
Worship Team, *leading*

There is a great gulf between being alone and being lonely. In fact, they aren't even related. One can be alone without being lonely. One can be miserably lonely and still not be alone. Alone is a state of the body; lonely is a state of the heart. A look at You're Only Lonely today, then next week a service about love. Both emotions have an immense impact on our lives.

Refreshments: A-G

Sunday, February 14, 2016

Singing on the Side of Love
Steve Brooks, *leading*

What better way to celebrate Valentine's Day than with a service of love songs? UU speaker and Austin folksinger Steve Brooks will use music to explore some of the many varieties and meanings of love, along with readings and personal reflections. Some will be classic and some obscure, but come prepared to sing along.

Morning Meditation – 9
Adult Forum - 10
Worship - 11:15
Conversations & Calories - 12:15

Sunday, February 21, 2016

The Cognitive Emotions
William Fridley, *speaking*

Head vs. heart, reason vs. affect, logic vs. emotion: these dichotomies are common in educational discourse, and in the Western cultural tradition (consider *Star Trek*' Mr. Spock). Some thoughts on integrating rationality and emotions.

Refreshments: I-R

Sunday, February 28, 2016

**A Liberal View of Evangelism:
Letting Our Love Reach Out**

The Rev. Tandi Rogers, *speaking (video)*
Evangelism is founded on the beliefs that people have a need for religious community, for deep relationships, for spiritual exploration, for social involvement. None of this, in a liberal church, has anything to do with conversion. In a non-creedal faith like ours, evangelism cannot be founded on convincing someone that we have the truth and the way. Evangelism is the natural result of a deep belief that we Unitarian Universalists have something important and precious to offer. The Rev Tandi Rogers, director of UUA's Growing Unitarian Universalism, will provide a video homily.

Refreshments: S-Z

[Church calendar
for the next
30 days:](#)

Red River Unitarian Universalist Church ♦ Denison, TX

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

Dan's Dispatch



It's hard to believe it's February – I've already made and abandoned a half-dozen New Year's resolutions! One thing I haven't forgotten, though, is to follow through on last month's review of our five year plan. Here's an update. In May of 2013, the Board set out a five-year plan with nine points:

1. Increase community projects from four to eight.

There has been no change in the number of community projects.

2. Develop Religious Education program for youth, with paid part-time Director, paid childcare in nursery, and average attendance of 20.

We have certainly struggled in this area, as many small congregations do. We are so very thankful for the volunteers who have agreed to spend time with visiting children. We have not abandoned plans to find an RE director, but the pool of good candidates is very small.

3. Growth in membership to 60 members.

We are delighted and honored to have welcomed recent new members. Over the last year our membership grew from 34 to our current 39.

4. Operate at a profit.

Hooray for us! We are very, very good at managing our finances and we frequently receive more in pledges and donations than we spend.

5. Attendance, including visitors and friends, to average 50 per week.

Our total weekly attendance has taken a recent turn up-

ward, but we average fewer than 30 attending.

6. Worship services with three ordained or professional speakers per month.

We believe we offer consistently good Sunday services, and we generally have two guest speakers a month. The Worship Team and Board of Trustees always welcome feedback from members. We understand that not everything appeals to everybody. We certainly appreciate praise, but we also see thoughtful critique as helping us to improve our planning and programs.

7. Increase interest groups from five to eight.

We are so happy to see the return of our musical Jam group, hosted by Jan Fletcher! The number of interest groups, though, remains fewer than eight.

8. Improve building and grounds.

The building and grounds are, I believe, a source of pride for us. We were recently award a grant of \$5500 from our local UU association (North Texas Unitarian Universalist Congregations-NTUUC) to improve the ceiling in our chapel. The building and grounds are a beautiful contribution to our neighborhood and we continue to improve them.

9. No minister planned in five years.

With membership of 39 members, it would be very difficult to consider having even a part-time minister. When we achieve a membership of 60, having that discussion could be very productive.

I would be remiss if I did not note that this new year has already been tinged with sorrow as we mourned the loss on January 11 of our dear friend, Gil Alexander. He was devoted to Red River and we will keenly miss him and his great heart. Our love always to his family, especially to his wife and partner in life, Marilyn.

Get Out The Vote

Last year Red River received a small UUA grant to pay for signs and a tent as part of a 'Get Out The Vote' project.

Now that the presidential campaigns have officially started, it is time for us to gear up and see how many people we can get registered to vote.

The GOTV crew has identified several places where we can set up our tent, tables, chairs, pens and registration forms. Before starting however, everyone working in Texas must become a registrar. It entails going to the Election office (115 W. Houston, Sherman) and watching a brief video that explains the process. (There is no test, just the video.) Residents of Oklahoma can self register by filling out a state form and mailing it in. We can give out those forms.

Currently five people from church are planning on becoming registrar. The church will have a booth at the Earth Day Festival and throughout the next eight months we can set up as many places as we want. Interested in helping? Speak with Doug, or Lanan, or Robert.

**So, you don't vote?
Register Here
Seriously?**

The 5th Annual Appreciation Dinner ~ Thursday, Feb. 18th

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.

An evening of thanks and appreciation, along with our famous sharing of culinary skills. Activities begin at 6 with appetizers and greetings, followed by dinner and then an opportunity for anyone

who may wish to offer an appreciation to anyone else to whom they want to thank. Just remember to bring a covered dish to serve 6-8 – whatever you wish to bring. There will be tables for appetizers; entrées; side dishes; desserts. Before we eat, we'll each introduce our food contribution to help us individually decide what to take and what to avoid.

The **Bruce Cameron Volunteer Service Award** will be announced and given. This is your invitation, please come. It promises to be a jubilant evening.



Meet our newest members



Donna Toerper, like many people who find Unitarian Universalism, spent most of her life avoiding religion. She'd been around Red River since 2008, and decided to join recently. She raised three children of her own and many extra kids as well. She loves children, babies and animals of all kinds. While working as an RN/Midwife, Donna traveled all over the world. She also enjoys history, languages, cultures and philosophy.



Linda Kilpatrick Tracy hails from Augusta GA where she grew up and was baptized, at age 12, into the Baptist faith. Over the years she has visited various churches and decided to settle down at Red River. She retired from a 32 year career as a Marketing Director in Property Management – which led her to work in 30 states. She currently is the Marketing Manager for Tracy Realty in Pottsville.

Come Sing a Song With Me

It is no secret that, as a congregation, we excel at many things – singing not being one! *"We're so bad, it a collective embarrassment,"* someone commented recently.

When the Common Ground Street Choir was with us, several people were delighted at how better we sounded. *"Having a song leader made singing easy for me,"* said another, *"I never know when to sing higher or lower because I cannot read music. But when Kathy Smith raised her hand upward I got it! Up went*

my voice and behold I was singing! It was amazing."

The Worship Team has a solution. Jan Fletcher, who has been singing professionally her whole life, has volunteered to be Red River's Song Leader.

Jan is comfortable leading singing and is excited about helping us feel better about singing in church.

Will there be music in our air? Let's give it a try.

Board Bits ~ from the January 24th Board meeting

Security at church - UU congregations are vulnerable and have been the target because of our ongoing support for all people. We're ripe to such action and we need to find ways to help assure that we will be safe in our space. To that end, the board agreed to

- Lock the back door at the start of worship
- Install a monitor to our video surveillance on the AV desk
- Add a chime alarm to the front door which will be turned on at the start of worship
- Provide a key to the building to those who need one
- Explore having a volunteer sit inside the

chapel door during service

- Teach a Emergency Response Training on how to handle a disruptive visitor

Booth at Earth Day - We agreed to have a Red River booth at this year's Texoma Earth Day Festival and do a Get Out The Vote event (we got a grant from the UUA to sponsor voter registration drives)

Chapel Ceiling Replacement - NTUUC grant for \$5,500 to replace the chapel ceiling was received with much appreciation. The board voted to transfer funds from general savings into the renovation budget to pay the balance of the cost

Appointed Marla Loturco Vice President, to serve the remainder of Gil Alexander's term (through June 2016)

Emergency Response Training

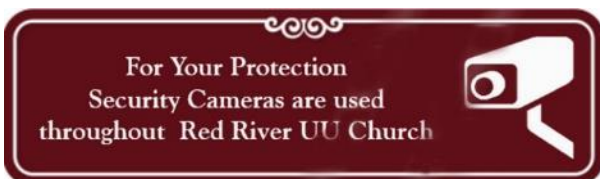
As mentioned in the Board Bits (see **Security at church** above) Robert Shelton will conduct training on how to deal with agitated individuals who pose a threat to our congregation.

This training will help in confronting a situation, if one ever arises. He has extensive training in deescalating a potential crisis and, if this fails, the next steps to be taken.

The training will be on Sunday, Feb 28 – 30 minutes after the conclusion of the worship service.

Those who want to get this training, please attend the session. The more people who know the recommended ways to handle an agitated person, the better for everyone.

Smile ~ You're on Video.



Our new 7/24 video security system was installed last month. With 12 inside and 4 exterior cameras, we have coverage throughout our campus. Whenever motion is detected in front of any camera, it starts recording both video and audio.



Learn about the **intersection of environmental and social struggles** related to **water, food and agriculture, economic justice, and racial equity** through first-hand stories of North Texans

SPEAKERS

Colette Pichon Battle, Executive Director of the Gulf Coast Center for Law and Policy and a leader in the Gulf Future Coalition and the Gulf South Rising movement

Yaira Robinson and **Rev. Sam Brannon**, Texas Interfaith Center for Public Policy

Rev. Eugene Keahey, Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Sandbranch

Hurricane Katrina survivors and disaster-responders

Dallas Recreation Center (MLK Community Center), 2901 Pennsylvania Ave, Dallas, TX 75201
Light breakfast and lunch provided; optional interfaith worship and stone soup supper afterwards
Childcare upon request

\$25/person (Scholarships available; email climateregistration@ntuuc.org or call 214-477-7291)

Register at www.ntuuc.org/climatechanged

or contact Daniel Polk, executive@ntuuc.org, or (469) 682-8870



Hosted by North Texas Unitarian Universalist Congregations

Bringing together a group of compassionate people of faith focused on healing this Earth and making positive social change in our communities

This workshop is supported by the John E. Johnson Fund for Social Justice

News from the North .. North TX UU Congregations

The North Texas UU Congregations is an umbrella organization to which Red River UU belongs. We are one of thirteen congregations that make up NTUUC.



NTUUC, through their endowment, has given our Fellowship grants for multiple years. This year we received money to assist in repairs to the chapel ceiling. Marla Loturco of Red River UU is on the board of NTUUC as the secretary. This organization is a vital support to our Fellowship and it is essential for us to be involved. We receive education, training, and funding from this organization. It also connects us with the twelve other congregations in North Texas.

. Highlights from the last NTUUC Board meeting (on Jan 23rd) include:

1 – New About NTUUC video is being posted on the NTUUC website as an explanation of what NTUUC is about. Everyone is welcome to view it at right now by clicking on the picture above.

2 – Upcoming workshop 'Climate Justice' on March 5 – This should be an exciting interfaith workshop – See article in newsletter.

3 – The new NTUUC Congregations booklet and Congregational Cards from Daniel with photos and information from all 13 congregations are available.

4 – Search for awards chair. Elbert Hill from RRUU is willing to serve on the committee but would rather not be chair. Need to find someone to chair.

5 – Any input for Raible place history project or knowledge of people who might have lived there. Ask around the old-timers from congregations to see if they

have any contacts. If anyone knows about the history of Raible Place, please contact Daniel Polk.

Around the Cluster:

Arlington UU Church - Working on finally qualifying as a Welcoming Congregation. It seems to be going successfully this time with new people being added to the task force every week.

Community UU Church - Current focus is on the building. There are many issues arising as it is an older building and they want it to look nicer to visitors as well as their congregation.

Denton UU Fellowship - They have been dealing with the fire experience for the last several months.

First UU Church of Dallas - Minister, Rev. Dr. Daniel Kanter has been in the hospital.

Horizon UU Church - Hosting a Mankind Project Workshop on Monday January 25 at 6:30 pm

Pathways Church - Everything is going well, had an inquirers class with five people and anticipating a new member ceremony on January 31 along with a congregational meeting to talk about the church DNA – how UU principles are embodied in the congregation.

Red River UU Church - Looking forward to replacing the chapel ceiling in the chapel and proud of Daniel Althoff for receiving the Marty Robinson Volunteer Award this year.

UU Church of Oak Cliff - Getting ready to order and install solar lighting for the parking lot – part of an NTUUC grant.

Westside UU Church - Deep in the ministerial search and holding their mid-year congregational meeting where they hope to decide to not renew the Montessori Lease, even though they will have to then come up with ways to fill in the budget. Would just like to have the church back for themselves.

NTUUC President - Been working on the March 5th workshop – it is very different format for NTUUC and very significant in our training and education growth – goal is to go interfaith

NTUUC Exec Director - Working on Luncheon and it seems to be coming together.

NTUUC Webmaster - Keeping busy with new workshops being added to website

NTUUC Minister Representative - Oak Cliff has reached capacity for the 3rd time with people even having to park in the grass.

**Loud Enough For All?
YES!**

The one-shot appeal to raise \$400 to purchase an additional wireless headset went over the top! We raised \$523. Many thanks to the donors. The new microphone system has been ordered and with the surplus, there will be funds to replace a faulty transmitter.

Treasurer's Report

In the month of December, we had income of \$3,476 from general operations. After operations expense of \$2,478 for the month, we had a net income from operations of \$1,158.

In December we received generous donations of \$500 for the Elevator fund and \$15 for the Wi-Fi Fund.

For the year to date period, we had a net income of \$13,332 from operations. Those included restricted amounts of \$9,576. The total change in cash for the month was a decrease of \$1688.

As of the end of December 2015, we had total cash of \$68,078 and our debt totaled \$29,114.

In November, we donated \$150 from the Share the Plate program to the Earth Day Festival.

The Adult Forum



"It's hard to lead a cavalry charge if you think you look funny on a horse."

Adlai E. Stevenson II

The Adult Forum is an important part of Red River. Over the years it has had differing styles of leadership. Gil Alexander provided inspiring and edifying forums that left people smiling and thinking all week long. He will be missed and it leaves the group in need of an answer – *Now What?*

The Forum has operated following various formats: with a consistent leader; or a coordinator who arranged programs; or a facilitator who led UU based courses; and with no formal 'in-charge' person.

As a long-standing and important feature of our Sunday mornings together, the Adult Forum offers things our Sunday service does not, and we value that difference. The Board of Trustees invites Adult Forum participants to share their thoughts with them on how to move forward in this new year.

UUJam ~ New Time + Date + Place!

Let's Keep the Music Playing!

Are you into music? Playing? Listening? Composing? Enjoying? Come join us on the last Saturday of the month (February 27th) for an afternoon of music.

The new time is 3:00 pm. The new place is well known to everyone: We're meeting in the Chapel. Bring your instruments, song books, beverage of choice & a snack to share. A song circle will be set in a way that will include the listeners. As always, please contact Jan Fletcher, via email, text or call at 972.897.5796 to confirm your place in the circle!

Hope to see lots of you, especially if you've never come before. You can listen, or play, or sing, or all three!

Booked for Lunch ~ Thursday, Feb 11th

Come share what you've been reading! Booked for Lunch meets in the Emerson Room on Thursday Feb 11th @ 1 pm. See you there!

February Birthdays

02 – Jerry Harris

16 – Chris Mory

28 – Keller Holmes

Our mission is to organize to transform the North Texas Area into an antiracist multicultural institution.

**NORTH TEXAS AREA
ANTI-RACISM TEAM** EST. 2002

*Confused - or troubled -
about all the talk of **racism** these days?*

We can help!
Join us for a **90-minute introduction**
for a deeper understanding of the definition of
and exposure to an analysis of racism.

**Grace UMC
Sherman Texas
February 2, 2016
7-9 pm**

Please contact
Tom and Vicki Busby
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vsportgirl@busbysweb.com

Leaders

Board of Trustees

Dan Althoff, *president*
 Marla Loturco, *vice president*
 Robert Shelton, *Treasurer*
 Doug Strong, *Secretary*
 Helen Schulze, *Trustee*
 Elbert Hill, *Past President*

Committee on Ministry:

LD Clark, *Carole Harner,*
 Gerry Shehan

Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum:
 Building & Grounds: *Marilyn*
 Communications: *Doug*
 Finance:
 Good Times: *Carole, Marilyn,*
Marion
 Long Range Planning: *Amy, ,*
Marilyn
 Membership:
 Nominations: *Amy, Kat, Lanan*
 NTUUC Rep: *Marla*
 RE Team: *Dan, Tommi*
 Safe Congregation Panel: *Dan*
 Social Action:
 Ways & Means:
 Worship: *Dan, Doug, Faye,*
Jan, Marla

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RedRiverUnitarianUniversalist-
 Church

*Church email suffix: @rruu.org

SWUuw Conference February 26-28, 2016

Learn More!

Lawton, Oklahoma



Keynote Speaker Lauren Zuniga

Lauren Zuniga is an internationally touring poet, activist & teaching artist. Author of two poetry collections, and a three-time national slam finalist, she's one of the top slam poets in the world.

presented by



SWUuw aligns itself with the spirit of Welcoming Congregations as depicted by the UUA. All who see themselves as women are welcome.

Gather with your Unitarian Universalist sisters in Lawton Oklahoma! Enjoy the Keynote and musical talent we've assembled, and explore your own talents through excellent quality workshops and worship experiences.

SWUuw sponsors this annual event, brought to you in 2016 by women of the UU Church of Lawton!

with
 musical
 guests



SJ Tucker

Emma's Revolution



Chalice Circles / Interest Groups

BOOKED FOR LUNCH, an informal book discussion group which usually meets the second Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the Emerson Room, on February 11th. Facilitator Carole Harner.

GREEN TEAM, an Environmental Action Team. The Team will meet on Thursday, Feb 11. at Amy Hoffman-Shehan's home. Check with Amy for the time. Facilitator: Amy Hoffman-Shehan.

MOVEABLE FEAST, a Cooking and/or Eating Circle meets monthly. In February the Feast-ers will join the congregation at the annual Appreciation Dinner, Feb 18th.

UU JAM, an acoustic music circle for musicians, singers & music loving listeners meets the last Saturday of the month @ 3 pm, in the Chapel. For Feb, that's the 27th. Facilitator: Jan Fletcher.