



# Red River Ramblings

News from Red River Unitarian Universalist Church

Denison TX

Vol 20, No. 10

February, 2018

## Sunday February 4, 2017

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

### **The Work of Sheldon Kopp: Metaphors, Illusions and Life's Journey**

Dr. William Fridley, *speaking*

Psychotherapist and author Sheldon Kopp died in 1999. His best known book, *If you meet Buddha on the Road, Kill Him!* included an epilogue called *The Eschatological Laundry List* that enjoyed great popularity among the counter-culture of the 1970s. Little has been written about Kopp. His work is an example of what I call *gems from the missed*: work that has waned in currency but still warrants our attention. We'll look at Kopp's penchant for non-directive therapy and teaching, featuring the use of metaphors to reveal truths, debunk illusions, and guide us in our lives.



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

## Sunday, February 11, 2017

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

### **What is Love?**

Megan Hutchinson, *speaking*

Today we will explore different definitions and expressions of love and how they impact our perception of love throughout our lives.

*Megan Hutchinson is a third generation educator who spent several years working with the visually impaired and learning disabled. She is also a caregiver who enjoys spending time with her 2 rescued fur babies and copious amounts of time in the kitchen. After living all over the United States, Megan settled in Texas 14 years ago and has finally found her home. Megan holds a BA in History from the University of Texas Arlington. She was invited to visit one Sunday by a member and found a church home among us. She is the Board secretary, a worship associate and co-chairs the Caring Circle.*

## Sunday, February 18, 2017

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

### **The Promise and the Practice of Our Faith**

The Worship Team, *leading*

It's a turning moment; a choice to listen deeply to the stories in our movement that have not been heard, and taken to heart, by all Unitarian Universalists. It's a lamenting of what our Unitarian Universalist tradition and congregations have lost by being unable – or unwilling – to center people of color (or even, at times, to merely include them). The Promise and the Practice is a celebration of our shared commitment to live into a new chapter in the story of our UU faith.

## Sunday, February 25, 2017

Morning Assembly - 11:15 am

### **Spiritual Intelligence and You**

The Rev. Kevin Bradley, *preaching*

You've heard of IQ. It's what they measure on college entrance exams like the SAT. You may have heard of EQ, or emotional intelligence. Spiritual intelligence is emotional intelligence on steroids. It was the "X factor" in spiritual leaders like Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr., and it's not rocket science.



*Kevin Bradley is an interfaith chaplain and private counselor with certification in spiritual intelligence and critical incident stress management. As a chaplain, he has specialized in trauma, intensive care, grief therapy, and mental health issues such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, depression, and addiction. Rev. Bradley is ordained in the United Church of Christ and has ecclesiastical endorsement for chaplaincy from Unity. He is a member of the Speakers Bureau and Board of Directors for Final Exit Network and was a founding member of Interfaith Clergy for End-of-Life Options.*

Special note: Kevin has volunteered to meet with all who would like to learn more about end-of-life options and Final Exit Network at 12:45 pm in the chapel.

## Hello from Helen



Greetings to you all, as we head away from January and flu season. The Board has received a request that we report on what happens during the Board

meetings. In the future, I will provide a summary of the items we discussed. Remember that anyone is welcome to attend the meetings if they wish.

It seems to me that life has a habit of descending in clumps. This has been an exceptional month for me... several people who were very close to me died in quick succession, my mother-in-law became seriously ill and needed care, and my workplace stayed busy while we were shorthanded. Even the caregivers get flu! I haven't had much time to think.

Instead of writing something for this little space, I will again turn to a poem that I find meaningful when I am grieving. It is by Mary Oliver, who is perhaps my favorite poet.

*To live in this world*

*You must be able*

*To do three things:*

*To love what is mortal;*

*To hold it against your bones*

*Knowing your own life depends on it;*

*And, when the time comes*

*To let it go,*

*To let it go.*

Take care,

Helen

## Seventh Annual Appreciation Dinner ~ Feb 22

*When eating bamboo sprouts,  
remember those who planted  
them.*

~ Chinese Proverb

*Silent gratitude isn't much  
use to anyone.*

~ G.B. Stern

*We should all be thankful  
for those people who rekindle  
our inner spirit."*

~ Albert Schweitzer

*The smallest thanks is always  
worth more than the effort it  
takes to give it.*

~ Unknown

The Board of Trustees invites everyone to the seventh annual Appreciation Dinner. 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.

The Board is arranging a wonderful program and because the dinner is **a pot luck affair** the food will be scrumptious.

There are two specific highlights of the evening - the fellowship (it is a terrific way to get to know some people who you only see across a crowded room) *and* the Bruce Cameron Distinguished Service Award will be given. Each year the Award Committee, comprised of those who have received the award in years past, considered if there has been one or more volunteers whose labor in the vineyard deserve special recognition.

Members, Friends, Visitors alike! Come and enjoy an evening of appreciation – offered and accepted - Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> starting at 6 pm.



## To Join is To Belong



Angie Cates became our newest member and will be formally welcomed into the congregation during the morning assembly on February 4<sup>th</sup>. The process of joining any Unitarian Universalist congrega-

tion is identical - one signs the membership book. If you've feel you have found your church home among us, we invite you to take the next step and become a member. You may even do it on Sunday as we will have the membership book available.

We currently have 51 members in the congregation. How many of them do you know?

## New To UU Chat ~ Feb 4

Calling all recent visitors, and anyone else who might enjoy learning a bit more about our congregation and the wider Unitarian Universalist communities: On the first Sunday we offer an informal gathering geared to help you get a better understanding of the free church tradition. Grab a snack and join in the conversation. 12:45 – 1:30 in the chapel.



## The Pentagon Papers and the Unitarian Universalist Association: *How the UUA Was Almost Destroyed by the Decision to Publish*

- *The Key Roles of a Unitarian Universalist Senator, Journalist, President, Publishing House and Congregation in One of the Most Important Civil Liberties Case in American History.*

The December of 2017 release of the blockbuster Stephen Spielberg movie “The Post” has everyone taking about the *Washington Post’s* brave defiance of the Nixon administration with its decision to publish excerpts from the *Pentagon Papers*, the 7,000-page compilation of secret government documents pertaining to the war. Daniel Ellsberg, who eventually leaked the papers, characterized the contents of the documents as “evidence of lying, by four presidents and their administrations over twenty-three years, to conceal plans and actions of mass murder.” In the movie *The Post*, Meryl Streep plays *Washington Post* publisher Katharine Graham to Tom Hank’s editor Ben Bradlee as they make the heroic decision to publish. The movie has earned both good reviews as well as responses (both light hearted and cranky) from the *New York Times*, which, as the movie acknowledges, was the first to the presses with their own excerpts of the leaked material.

But how many people know of the tremendous bravery demonstrated and risk assumed by the Unitarian Universalist Association, whose Beacon Press was the only publisher to print the complete *Pentagon Papers*? The decision itself and the subsequent harassment of the denomination by Nixon and his administration came very close to the closing down the Unitarian Universalist Association for good.

*The New York Times* began printing excerpts of the *Pentagon Papers* on June 13 of 1971, when Daniel Ellsberg, whose job as a defense contractor had given him access to the top-secret documents, passed them on to the *Times*. *The Washington Post* followed suit closely thereafter, going to press even after the *Times* was hit with an injunction; *Post* journalist Ben Bagdikian (himself a Unitarian Universalist) had deduced that Ellsberg would have access and independently procured a copy. Predictably, *the Post* was immediately hit with its own injunctions. Eventually the Supreme Court, in a landmark decision, *(continued on next page)*

## Booked For Fun~ Feb 9

Do you want to hear about new authors and great books to read? Our next book club meeting is on Friday, February 9, at 1 pm at church. Open to book lovers everywhere.

Carole Harner, *facilitator*

## Earth Day Planning ~ Feb 13

Earth Day Planning Committee will meet Tuesday February 13 at 6:30 pm at church. We will receive updates on graphics and pending workshops.

## Final Exit Network~ Feb 25

Want to learn more about end-of-life options and Final Exit organization? Rev. Bradley will lead an informal Q&A at 12:45 for all who wish to attend.

ruled that the freedom of the press protected all the newspapers that had published the documents, and that the obligation of the press was to protect the governed, not the governors. This is where the movie *The Post* ends.

But the drama continued. Even after the publication of excerpts, Ellsberg remained committed to getting a complete version of *The Pentagon Papers* before the public. He returned what was his original idea: having a member of Congress, with related immunity, to read the documents into the public record. Only one was interested: Alaska Senator and Unitarian Universalist Mike Gravel. Gravel, blocked from reading the papers from the floor of the senate, convened a session of the relatively obscure Buildings and Grounds subcommittee and read the papers into the record there. But who would publish the transcript?

After being turned down by thirty-five publishers, Gravel turned to Beacon Press, owned and operated by the UUA. Beacon published the Senator Gravel edition of the Pentagon Papers in multiple volumes starting in October of 1971. Gravel later told the *UU World* magazine: "Nobody would touch it," he says, "nobody but the Unitarians. So that really locked me in: I'm Unitarian, and I'm damn proud of it. They've got courage. I'm very loyal to the Unitarian Church for what they did."

The decision to publish was a great risk. First there was the question of finances, and then the government harassment.

UUA President Bob West described the cost of publishing as "a huge expense given our financial condition at that time." That was, if anything, an understatement. West had spent his first year in office (1969) convincing the bank not to foreclose on \$450,000 of debt left by his predecessor Dana Greely, even while trying to manage an operating budget of \$2.6 million based on an income of only \$1.6 million. Not only was the UUA close to bankruptcy, its member congregations were deeply divided by the Vietnam War and by what became to be known as the "black empowerment controversy" (a misnomer, given that the issue at hand was the white response to black empowerment). The Veatch Program at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Shelter Rock was approached for financial assistance: The \$100,000 granted by the congregation allowed for the publication of the Pentagon Papers and kept the UUA financially afloat.

The government's harassment of the UUA was immediate. Bob West describes in his memoir what happened next: "two agents from the Defense Department visited (Beacon Press Director) Gobin Stair at his office, an experience Gobin described as ominous and intimidating; and Gobin reported that President Nixon telephone him, and after noting what a nice person Gobin was, said he was "sure Gobin did not want to get into any trouble by publishing the Pentagon Papers." West and Gobin nonetheless pressed ahead, noting later that Nixon's attempts to thwart them helped convince them how necessary the act was to preserve the freedoms of both the press and of religion.

Before long, West learned that the FBI, acting on a grand jury indictment, was at the bank used by the UUA, copying all the financial records of the association, including personal checks written by individual UUs. Senator Gravel tried to intervene against the harassment of the UUA by the Justice Department, appealing to congressional immunity, but the courts ruled that any legal protection enjoyed by Gavel could not be extended to Beacon Press. The UUA responded with a suit in federal court arguing that "such broad access and investigation...subject our denomination to governmental intimidation and harassment, repress legitimate dissent, and infringe upon the religious freedom and the freedom of the press guaranteed by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution."

Bob West described the intent and effect of the harassment: "*As I traveled and spoke, many people asked me, 'If I buy a copy of The Pentagon Papers am I subject to investigation? Will a file be opened on me?'*" *Congregations and the UUA were subjected to inclusion in the dossiers and files of the Justice Department and the FBI, which is a way of striking at the UUA for its present and future...the Federal Judge in Boston said, 'You do not need to convict in order to embarrass and harass a person.' I can draw no other conclusion than that the overall intent of the investigation was to create fear, have a chilling effect on our denomination, other religious organizations, and people who might be inclined to engage in dissent from stated policy.*"

The issue was moot by 1972, when the public revelation of the Watergate scandal marked the beginning of the end of the Nixon administration. But the actions of the UUA and Beacon Press serve as a still much needed beacon for the value of the free press, which is needed today more than ever.

Reprinted from [Harvard Square Library](#)

## Zen Meditation ~ Thursdays



Red River Grassroots Zen meditation continues to meet Thursday evenings from 7 - 8:15 in the Emerson Room. Open to all who wish to come and sit with us.

## CUUPS ~ Feb 10



Our proto-CUUPS group started out by being on the new moon whenever it occurred. This is not the best way to start a group, and so CUUPS is changing its format. Meetings

will be held each month on the Saturday nearest the Full Moon from 1:00p - 3:00p. Meetings will start with a check-in, followed by the listed topic for the month. Field trips to local rituals will be organized, as well as other events. All levels of experience and knowledge welcome!

The next meeting will be on Saturday afternoon, February 10 from 1 - 3 pm. The discussion will focus on love, in anticipation of St. Valentine's day. Open to all.

## Worship Team ~ Feb 11

The Worship Team has changed its meeting time. Starting in February, the team will meet on the second Sunday at 1 pm. Know of someone you think would make a good Sunday speaker? Send your suggestions to [worship@rruu.org](mailto:worship@rruu.org).

## Moveable Feast

Moveable Feast does not have a Feast during February because everyone usually attends the annual Appreciation Dinner. See you there!

## Treasurer's Report

In the month of December, we had total receipts of \$7,094.76, including a contribution of \$4,000.00 to be used for the proposed elevator. Total disbursements in December were \$1,868.21, including \$155.00 Share the Plate donation to the Earth Day, leaving net income for the month of December of \$5,226.55. As of De-

ember 31, we had \$28,267.51 available in checking, a total of \$41,838.20 in savings and a total of \$14,549.47 in Certificates of Deposit.

It is also to be noted that our first Sunday collection in January included a contribution of \$10,000, to be used at the Board's discretion.

All bank accounts have been reconciled with no exceptions noted.

Dick Powell, *Treasurer*

## Social Actions ~ Update

As our Social Justice facilitator I have been posting to our Facebook page possible actions (reposting and signing opportunities). The first month I put a few items on our Facebook page, and the next month a few more. What I discovered is either people had no interest in those items, or didn't know where to find them.

Our Facebook's main page is for official all-church information. To see any of the posts by members, we have to go to the Community. I posted 6 times in November and 10 times in December. One person liked some of them, but no one reposted the items. Perhaps offering an introductory course to Social Justice online would be beneficial.

Our Board of Trustees votes yes on the two Congregational Study/Action issues to come to next June's General Assembly:

- **Racism** is fundamental to U.S. social systems. *White supremacy culture operates economically, institutionally, politically, and culturally, shaping everyone's chances to live healthy, fulfilling lives. It is also the nation's most toxic export, shaping policies and practices that do profound harm to the Earth and all living things.*
- **Systemic injustices** intersect across environment, race, gender and all other forms of oppression. *Identifying the underlying mechanisms which enable systemic and intersecting injustices enables us to mitigate their harm. Intersectional justice calls us to work together across oppressions and become a movement of movements.*

I will focus on these and other UUA social justice posts on our Facebook page. I look forward to your feedback. Click the links for details on each Study/Action resolution.

Rebecca Crystal  
*Facilitator*

## Leaders

### Board of Trustees

Helen Schulze, *President*  
Linda Tracy, *Vice President*  
Dick Powell, *Treasurer*  
Megan Hutchinson, *Secretary*  
Jim Holmes, *Trustee*  
Dan Althoff, *Past President*

### Committee on Ministry:

Carole Harner, Marla Loturco,  
Robert Shelton

### Team Leaders/Members:

Adult Forum: *various members*  
Building & Grounds: *Marilyn*  
Caring Circle: *Kelly and Megan*  
Communications: *Doug*  
Finance:  
Membership: *Marion*  
Nominations: *David, Elbert, Lanan*  
NTUUC Rep: *Marla*  
RE Team: *Dan, Tommi*  
Safe Congregation Panel: *Dan*  
Social Action: *Rebecca*  
Worship: *Angie, Doug, Marla, Rebecca, Robert, Tommi*

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E-News: [announce \(at\) rruu.org](mailto:announce@rruu.org)

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

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

## February Birthdays

Feb 02 - Jerry Harris

Feb 16 - Christopher Mory

Feb 22 - Dick Powell

Feb 28 - Keller Holmes

## 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 - May on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday at 1 pm. They meet in the Emerson Room. [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. Planning meetings are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 6:30 pm, in the chapel. [Amy Hoffman-Shehan](#), *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. [Marion and Elbert Hill](#), *facilitators*

**NEW MOON RATTLING HEALING CIRCLE** ~ meets monthly at church on various dates focusing on holiday or ritual happening during that month. The monthly circle meets from 6 - 7:30 pm. [Rebecca Crystal](#), *facilitator*

**ZEN MEDITATION** ~ If you have an interest in Zen as a topic, a practice or both, please come and practice sitting and walking meditation with us for 55 minutes followed by discussion centered on discovering what Zen really means as it evolves into a drastically changing, globalized world characterized by what some have called "the long emergency." Thursdays, 7 - 8:15 pm, in the Emerson Room. Open to all, no charge. [Todd Ellis](#), *facilitator*