

# THE ORACLE

## *Thoreau Woods Unitarian Universalist Church July 2020 Newsletter*



We welcome everyone to our congregation, recognizing no distinction of class, nationality, race, gender, or sexual orientation.

*“It's funny how, in this journey of life, even though we may begin at different times and places, our paths cross with others so that we may share our love, compassion, observations, and hope. This is a design of God that I appreciate and cherish.” — Steve Maraboli*

### **Sunday Services**

Until further notice, because of Covid-19, all Sunday Services will be conducted via Zoom. Zoom Services will be held each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Log in at 10:15 to greet others and check connections. People may create their own personal chalice to light at home when the chalice lighting is read.

Each week email with a link and password will be sent to those on the newsletter list. If you do not receive the newsletter, and would like to, please send an email to [info@twuuc.org](mailto:info@twuuc.org). If you think you should be on the list, but are not receiving emails from the church, you may want to check your spam folder and add [info@twuuc.org](mailto:info@twuuc.org) to your safe senders or contact list.

### ***Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup> - The Rev. Adam Robinson will speak on “Look How Far We’ve Come”***

Winston Churchill said, “Many forms of Government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed it has been said that democracy is the worst form of Government except for all those other forms that have been tried from time to time....”

I find it entirely too easy to think of our form of Government as the worst while I impatiently push for our nation to arrive at the fully formed paragon of freedom and justice I dream for it to be.

We are obviously in a state of transition right now. Covid-19 and George Floyd are forcing us to look at some ugly truths about the United States as we know it.

I find it easy for my liberal heart and mind to be cynical and bitter about how much more progress needs to be made. I don’t want to act from cynicism and bitterness. I believe that those feelings can shape how I



approach any action. I fear those emotions will shade how I view people on both sides of issues moving forward. So what do I do?

I believe I can begin to see more clearly by looking backwards all the progress we have made. When I look backwards I can see just how far we have come, and that is the cleanser I need to scrub away my cynicism and bitterness. If we can come so very far from July 4<sup>th</sup> 1776 we can keep pressing forward to transform from what we are now into a better version of ourselves. Then cynicism and bitterness are replaced with encouragement and love. I find that to be a much healthier way forward. Any change we need to make in this time of transition is within our ability to make. I know we have so much further to go but look how far we have come.



***Sunday, July 12th – The Rev. Victoria DellaSperanza will speak on “Leaning into the Sharp Edges.”***

How to find healing and hope when things fall apart.

***Sunday, July 19th – Fellowship Sunday***

“The Gathering”

Join us for a different kind of Fellowship Sunday. Typically, our church set aside the third Sunday of each month for fellowship and a potluck lunch. To me, those lunches were a sacred social time for hugs, laughter, catching up and a deeper sharing of our joys and sorrows. We can’t meet in person right now but we most definitely can come together to listen, share, and hold space for each other.

On July 19 we will try a different format of a virtual gathering dedicated to catching up with each other. Bring your favorite Sunday beverage and settle in with an open heart and mind. Can’t wait to see you there.

Reverend Vicki



***Sunday, July 26th - Citizen’s Climate Control***

On Sunday May 31st, Roger Ingersoll will speak on The Citizen’s Climate Lobby. Now retired, Roger worked for ExxonMobil for 33 years in the oil and gas industry. He worked on arctic, coastal and offshore projects, worldwide, and as witnessed changes in the North-slope Alaska area that have happened since the 1980’s. Currently, Roger is a member of SHSU Industrial Advisory Board to gain accreditation for SHSU’s Electronics and Computer Engineering Technology program. Citizens’ Climate Lobby is a non-profit, nonpartisan, grassroots advocacy organization focused on national policies to address climate change. Roger has been a member of the Citizens Climate Lobby for 4 years and is currently the group leader of the Huntsville chapter. He is also a member of the Climate Control Lobby’s Conservative Caucus, Catholic and Faith Leader Action Team.

## *Stewardship*

Even though the church is not meeting, there are still expenses. If you would like to make a donation to Thoreau Woods Unitarian Universalist Church, you can mail a check to P.O. Box 6751, Huntsville TX 77342-6751 or pay via Paypal by sending to [info@twuuc.org](mailto:info@twuuc.org) or going to [paypal.me/twuuc](https://paypal.me/twuuc).

## **Birthday Calendar**

Connie Heiland was born on July 3rd.

Pam Johnson was born on July 21st.

If you have an August birthday, please tell the editor.

## **\*\*\*\*\*VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES\*\*\*\*\***

**Sunday Morning Programs:** If you would like to be the meeting leader, guest speaker, or have something you want to share during Fellowship Sunday, please contact Rich Heiland at [heilandr1@gmail.com](mailto:heilandr1@gmail.com).

**Building and Grounds:** If you would like to help maintain the building and/or grounds, please contact Paul Culp at [culp@shsu.edu](mailto:culp@shsu.edu).

**Membership Committee:** We still need someone to head this committee. Anne True is maintaining the membership list.

## **TWUUC Mission Statement- JUST HELP.**

There are three interpretations of this mission.

It is the journey to answer the complex question "Why am I here?"

It is help that is just.

It is to do no harm of any kind against ourselves, others or the environment.



### ***Charity of the Month: The C.O.M.E. Center***

The C.O.M.E. Center in Huntsville, TX is a not-for-profit organization which helps those in need with financial and utility assistance as well as manages a resale shop to help support the local community. They have many specialized programs including a voucher program for those seeking employment to obtain gently used work attire for their interview. They also provide school supplies for low-income students. One of our late members, Dorothy Husky, was a cofounder of this charity. To donate, please send a check to 342 State Highway 75 N Huntsville, Texas 77320.

## **CONTACT US**

### **Church Location**

144 East Mosley Lane

Huntsville TX 77340

Off HWY 75 South

Turn left on Mosley Lane approximately 1 mile south of McCoy's

### **Mailing Address:**

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Huntsville TX 77342-6751

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## JOIN OUR PRISON MINISTRY

The degree of civilization in a society can be judged by entering its prisons.  
– Fyodor Dostoyevsky

The Unitarian Universalist First Principle affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Yet every day millions of incarcerated people are told the exact opposite of this principle, that they are worthless and undeserving. Through prison visits and letter writing, we at TWUUC have a special opportunity to show incarcerated people living right here in Huntsville that they are inherently worthy of love and justice.

We need you to help nurture our nascent prison ministry. Working together we can show incarcerated people that they are not forgotten and that those of us in the “free world” care about their well-being. Our program consists of one-on-one visits, letter writing and phone calls with local inmates at the Ellis Unit located on FM 980 in Huntsville.

This ministry is organized and led by Vicki DellaSperanza Hernandez and her husband Martin Hernandez who is incarcerated at Ellis Unit. Vicki organizes and trains volunteers in the so-called free world, and Martin leads the program from inside the prison. Together they launched a letter-writing campaign that connects pen-pals who write monthly. Their vision is to establish one-on-one (non-contact) visits with men, who over the years, have had either very few visits or none at all. Whether you are interested in writing or visiting, you will receive guidance and assistance every step of the way. Vicki and Martin are committed to ensuring a safe, secure and mutually beneficial experience for both volunteers and inmates. For more information contact Vicki at (617) 970-5430 or [vicki@thriveafterloss.com](mailto:vicki@thriveafterloss.com).

Due to Covid-19, there will be no visits to the prisons until future notice.

### OFFICERS

**President:** Rich Heiland  
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**Vice President/Program Chair:** Beth Williamson  
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**Treasurer:** Richard Lane  
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**Secretary:** Sandy Fruhman  
[sfruhman@savagebrands.com](mailto:sfruhman@savagebrands.com)

### LEADERSHIP

Music Director: Karen Peake  
OOS Editor: Sandy Fruhman  
Youth R.E. Chair: Tamela Shirley  
Adult R.E. Chair: Richard Lane  
Building and Grounds: Paul Culp  
Membership List: Anne True  
Parliamentarian: Rick Norman  
Public Relations: Vicki DellaSperanza Hernandez  
Newsletter Editor: Anne True  
(deadline last Sunday of the month)

We are on Facebook!  
Thoreau Woods UU Church  
Thoreau Woods Coffee House

**Johnson Studio House Concerts**  
*presents*  
**Guilia Millanta**

**July 5, 2020 at 6 pm (Sunday)**  
**Facebook Live**



This will be broadcast via Guilia's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=712088509>. It is free, although donations are appreciated.

Singer-songwriter, Giulia (Julia) Millanta, is a native-born Italian from Florence who now calls Austin, Texas home. A creative and prolific artist, she has released six solo albums, touring nationally throughout the USA and internationally. An accomplished guitarist, Giulia also plays ukulele and sings in four languages. She has been called smart, pensive and cool and credited with psychedelic grooveability whilst "baring her clairvoyant soul" to "deliver musical mojo."

Giulia began her life in music as a child of eight years when taught to play guitar by her father she began to perform traditional folk songs. She continued to sing and began writing songs and making records. Performing at the Acoustic Guitar Meeting in Sarzana in the spring of 2010 her accomplished guitar style and songs earned her the "New Sounds Of Acoustic Music" award. This led to an endorsement by the renowned guitar makers Eko, choice of the most famous 60's-80's era singer-songwriters throughout Italy. In 2008, she debuted with "[Giulia](#)" and the Dizzyness" (Cavern Jatt Records.) Then, in 2011, she released "[Dropping Down](#)" (Ugly Cat Music/Audioglobe) distinguished by her maturing skills as musician, producer, writer and arranger.

Deciding to expand her musical borders in 2012 she moved to Austin where she was soon embraced by the music community and its fans as a writer, collaborator and performer in the scene's most prestigious singer-songwriter venues.

Shortly after she released "[Dust and Desire](#)" (Ugly Cat Music/Audioglobe.) Just a couple of years later in 2014 she broke new ground with "The Funambulist" (Ugly Cat Music) Surrounded by a host of new friends and fellow musicians as "between the lines" she conceptualizes the tightrope walk she has been through, writing and singing of all she has experienced, learned and become.

In 2016, Giulia released her fifth solo album "[Moonbeam Parade](#)", 13 self-penned tunes fueled by a new direction on electric guitar. Produced by Giulia herself on her own label "Ugly Cat Music", with her friend and producer George Reiff, with a stellar band featuring some of the best musicians in Austin, such as Charlie Sexton (Bob Dylan), Howe Gelb (Giant Sand), Glenn Fukunaga (The Dixie Chicks), Gabriel Rhodes (Willie Nelson), David Pulkingham (Patty Griffin) and many more.

In 2018 Giulia releases "[Conversation with a Ghost](#)" produced by herself and Gabriel Rhodes. The record also features talents like Marc Ribot (Tom Waits) on electric guitar, Joel Guzman (Paul Simon) on accordion, John Mills (David Byrne) on horns. 2018 was also a great year for awards for Giulia, since she won the Premio Ciampi for "Not You", her version of Piero Ciampi's song "Tu no" and was awarded with the Doc's Blues Awards 2018 as BluesWoman of the year by Severn Fm Radio.

For more info go to <https://www.giuliamillanta.com/about>.

**Upcoming at Johnson Studio House Concerts**

August 30, 2020: [Double the Fun! Jordi Baizan and Terry Klein](#)

September 19, 2020: [Dave Dersham](#)

October 18, 2020: [Reggie Harris](#)