



## THE ORACLE

*"Conscience is an oracle of the Divinity" - William Ellery Channing*

### **Thoreau Woods Unitarian Universalist Church September 2014 Newsletter**

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

### **Sunday Morning Programs at 10:30 AM**

**September 7**



**Sarah Prickett**

#### **Who's in Charge Here? The Power of Storytelling**

Story is a powerful force in our lives, for good or ill. Stories shape us, whether they are the stories of our own lives or the stories we are told. Venture into the magical world of "once upon a time" and discover a source of wisdom and power for your own life.

Sarah Prickett is the Director of Lifespan Faith Development at Northwoods Unitarian Universalist Church and a seminarian at Meadville Lombard Theological School. In her past lives, she was a poet and a newspaper editor. Sarah hails from Arkansas and now makes her home in Tomball with her partner Cindy and a few four-legged companions.

*Please join us for lunch after church at Los Pericos. Directions from the church: Travel north on Sam Houston Ave. and turn left or west on 11th St. Turn right when you see the Walgreens store, it is behind it.*

## September 14



**Rev. Tony Lorenzen**  
**Glassblowers**

Recovanting: Rev. Tony helps us take a look at our congregational history and what it means to be a covenantal community. A ritual of reaffirming our covenant to each other will be part of the service.

*Please join us for lunch after church at Schlotsky's. Directions from the church: Travel north on Sam Houston Ave. and turn left on Boettcher or Montgomery Rd. Turn right on the east feeder road of I-45. After the Dodge-Jeep business, you'll see Schlotsky's on the right.*

## September 21



**Rev. Chuck Freeman**  
**A Shrewd Awakening**

After the devastating defeat of Barry Goldwater in 1964 conservative strategists hatched a plan that lead to the convergence of fundamentalist Christianity and socio political power in America. The recent highly restrictive abortion bill passed by the Texas legislature is a direct result of this scheme. We have had a rude awakening. Now its time for a shrewd awakening! The Texas UU Justice Ministry is here to answer the alarm.

Rev. Chuck Freeman has been in the ministry since 1977 serving Church of Christ and Unitarian Universalist congregations. He is the founding minister of the [Free Souls Church](#) in Round Rock, Texas. Chuck is a founding member of the Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry and its Executive Director. Chuck is also a certified Chaplain who has ministered in the Texas Medical Center in Houston and with Hospice Austin. He is the co-founder of Hospice Austin's Bereavement counseling program.

He is the creator; producer and host of the radio program [“Soul Talk”](#) which has been broadcasting since 1996. The show currently streams live 24/7 @ [Soultalkradio.com](#). Chuck is the Founder and President of the [Free Souls Project](#), promoting the integration of spirituality, democracy and ethics from a liberal faith perspective. His blogs on Politics & Religion have appeared on Fire Dog Lake/The Seminal, & The Huffington Post. Chuck is currently a regular faith columnist for the Hill Country News and the Round Rock Leader. His Op Ed Pieces have been published in the Austin American Statesman, Austin’s NPR affiliate, KUT, and The Washington Post/Newsweek “On Faith” blog. Chuck was a panelist on the 2009 Netroots Nation workshop “A New Progressive Vision for Church & State.” You can keep up with Chuck’s media ventures @ [ChuckFreeman.org](#). Chuck is a lively, reflective, down to earth man who combines irreverence, compassion, and a playful humor in his life and work.

*Please join us for lunch after church at City Hall Café & Pie Bar. Directions from the church: (Former New York Joe's location). Travel north on Sam Houston Ave. City Hall is across from Smither Company Real Estate and the WC Auto Center at the intersection of Sam Houston Ave. and 14th Street.*

## September 28



### **Rev. Tony Lorenzen Becoming UU Again for the First Time**

5 Smooth Stones: 20th century Unitarian theologian James Luther Adams provides the framework for our faith by outlining the five smooth stones of religious liberalism. Far more than the 7 principles, the 5 smooth stones help us understand who we are as Unitarian Universalists. Rev. Tony invites to become a UU Again for the First Time.

**There will be a potluck following the sermon.**

### **Congregational Listening Sessions**

The first week of September our new minister, the Rev. Tony Lorenzen, will be holding two Congregational Listening Sessions to allow Tony to get to know the congregation and to hear everyone's hopes and dreams for the church. These meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 2 at 6:30 PM and Wednesday, Sept. 3 at 1 PM. We urge everyone to make one of these sessions. Please note that the Reverend Lorenzen holds office hours at the church on the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 2 PM to 7 PM and on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 9 AM to 1 PM.



## Minister's Message

Dear Friends,

Beginnings. September is the time beginnings in our Unitarian Universalist churches. Congregations that still practice the inherited tradition of "taking the summer off" as well as congregations that have services and programs year round ramp up again at the end of the summer and the start of a new school year.

Things here at church will begin in new, courageous, and adventurous ways this fall. Here's just some of what's beginning:

- We will begin using a new method and program to welcome visitors.
- We will debut a new web site.
- We will begin our monthly series of "Rev. Tony, Now What?" gatherings to acclimate everyone to the transition process from what the church has been to what it will be.
- We will begin offering Firewalking, a spiritual deepening program for Unitarian Universalists.
- We will begin offering small group ministry before worship on Sunday mornings.
- We will begin holding Pathways to Membership classes for prospective new members.
- We will undertake a revision of our bylaws and policies.
- We will participate in the UUA's new growth program: Love Reaches Out.

This month (and this year), I encourage you to approach your spiritual life and your participation in the church as if you were just beginning the journey. Approach the next steps in the church's history as you would a new adventure, full of hope and possibility. We need to be willing to make a fresh start and a re-commitment to our faith and our religious values because we are still deeply needed in the world.

We need a renewed vigor in our religious lives because we need to bring that renewed commitment and energy to the public square. The shootings in Ferguson, MO are only the latest reminder of how much work we still have left to do in order to create a just and loving community. There's still plenty of hell in the world. It is our job to love the hell out of it as best we can. Every day we must begin again.

Blessings, Rev. Tony



Religious Education News Religious Education for adults and for children will be held from 9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. During multi-generational worship all children will remain with their parents during the entire service. The younger members of our congregation will be invited to help with parts of the service such as Responsive Reading, Chalice Lighting and Offertory. If a parent is concerned that a child needs a little entertainment during the sermon, coloring books will be provided for use during the sermon only. If a child needs some time alone, the parent and child may retire to the children's R.E. classroom.



## AND CONCERNS



Get Well wishes to Bob Peake and Stuart Williamson for their recent hospital stays.  
Get well to Blaine Hinds who fell and had to get stitches.



Please wish a happy birthday to these members with September birthdays!

5      **Lee Stringer**                      10      **Bruce Marx**                      25      **Starla Jackson**

## JUST HELP

### Our 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 **Senior Center of Walker County** functions to serve senior adults, 60 years and older. The Senior Center provides programs and services that will enable the individuals to be an integral part of the community and allow them to retain independence, dignity, and a sense of well being. One of the Senior Centers main purpose is, as long as we have budget funds, to make sure that senior adults in need do not go hungry in Walker County. Please make check directly to the charity, and place in collection basket. For more information, go to [www.seniorcenterofwalkercounty.com](http://www.seniorcenterofwalkercounty.com).

### Good Shepherd Mission

Please continue to bring nonperishable food when you come to church. Thanks to all who continue to help in this ongoing outreach.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Order of Service If you are willing to take over the weekly OOS, please let Anne True know.

Religious Education If you would like to help with RE, please talk to Beth Williamson at 295-3170.

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).

Coffeehouse If you would like to help with the coffeehouse, please contact Pam Johnson via email at [pamjohnson05@suddenlink.net](mailto:pamjohnson05@suddenlink.net) or call 936-661-4313. We need help with admission table, kitchen, setup and teardown during the event, as well as bakers.

Contact Us:

Phone: (936) 439-9505, after hours call (936) 295-3170

Email: [info@twuuc.org](mailto:info@twuuc.org)

Website: [www.twuuc.org](http://www.twuuc.org)

Facebook:

**TWUUC** <https://www.facebook.com/home.php>

**Thoreau Woods Coffeehouse** <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Thoreau-Woods-Coffeehouse/149364661758688?ref=hl>

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144 East Mosley Lane

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Mailing Address:

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Huntsville TX 77342-6751

Minister: Rev. Tony Lorenzen

[revtonyuu@gmail.com](mailto:revtonyuu@gmail.com)

508-344-3668

**Office Hours**

Please call or email for an appointment if you want to make sure to catch Rev. Tony at the church as he sometimes is at meetings or appointments in the community as part of his ministry.

Monday: Minister's Sabbath Day - Rev. Tony is tending to self care - and errands.

1st and 3rd Tuesdays: 2-7 p.m.

2nd and 4th Tuesdays: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**OFFICERS**

President: Beth Williamson

[betwil@aol.com](mailto:betwil@aol.com)

Vice President: Paul Culp

[culp@shsu.edu](mailto:culp@shsu.edu)

Treasurer: Blaine Hinds

[titan65pa@hotmail.com](mailto:titan65pa@hotmail.com)

Secretary: Bob Cope

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Immediate Past-President: Anne True

[ae\\_true@yahoo.com](mailto:ae_true@yahoo.com)

Newsletter Editor: Pam Johnson

(deadline last Sunday of the month)

[Pamjohnson05@suddenlink.net](mailto:Pamjohnson05@suddenlink.net)

# Thoreau Woods Coffeehouse



**Sarah Golden with  
Gary Paul opening**

**September 20, 2014  
Saturday @ 7 pm**



**Sarah Golden** was a Season 2 Contestant on The Voice, Team CeeLo. She is a New-Folk Singer/Songwriter originally from Houston, TX, who was born into a musical family. Golden has been an active member of Houston's music community since the release of her debut album, "Truth" in 2002, which ultimately led her to becoming a top-ten finalist in the 2002 Kerrville Folk Festival's New-Folk competition. She was also nominated for "Best Folk Artist" in the 2012 Houston Press Music Awards and "Best Female LGBT Artist" in AbOUT Magazine's 2012 F.A.C.E. Awards. For more info, go to "<http://www.sarahgolden.com/>".

**Gary Paul** is a singer-songwriter from New Mexico. Gary Paul is what you get when you combine and actor, a photographer, a poet, a musician and a veteran performer. He writes with photographic detail, an actor's character insight & the craft of a storyteller, expressed in poetic lyrics set to subtle finger style guitar work. His broad personal journey, rooted in both urban and rural poverty, fills his songs with life. Winner of the 2006 Xtreme Folk Scene's Song Contest for, "The Man In the Black Chapeau" & Nominee for 2014 New Mexico Music Awards, Blues Category for, "Southwest Chief," his writing melds the songwriting traditions of the Northeast with influences from the South & Southwest. His creates a travelogue of the American landscape & its music history, from traditional & Celtic to knock-down blues, bebop & everything in between. For more information, go to "<http://www.garypaulhermus.com/DOCS/frames.html>".

## Upcoming

**October 18:** Adler & Hearne – This will be the Johnson's **50<sup>th</sup>** concert!

**November 15:** Kevin Higgins & Barbara Maltese with Troy Cartwright opening

### **144 E. Mosley Lane, Huntsville, TX**

**From I-45S:** Take exit 112, go north on Hwy. 75 (Sam Houston Ave.). Shortly after you pass Southwood Dr., you will take a right on E. Mosley.

**From I-45N:** Take exit 114, go east on FM 1374 (Montgomery Rd.) to Hwy. 75 (Sam Houston Ave.). Go right. After you pass junction Hwy 19, go .8 mile and take a left on E. Mosley Lane.

**The church is the last building on the right.**

#### Suggested donation:

\$15, \$10 students/seniors  
Coffee & desserts for sale

**For more information visit website**

[twuuc.org/coffeehouse.html](http://twuuc.org/coffeehouse.html)  
or call (936) 661-6332

